

NEWS

in brief

Bushinsky replacing Bazak

Aviv Bushinsky, Army Radio's diplomatic reporter, is expected to begin working as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's spokesman instead of Shai Bazak in a few days. Bushinsky's appointment is not official yet, but sources in the Prime Minister's Office confirmed it. Bushinsky yesterday denied that he had been asked to go on leave from Army Radio. He said he decided to go on leave after consulting with the station commanders, understanding that it would not be ethical on his part to cover the Prime Minister's Office while his negotiations with the office over his new position were under way.

Michal Yudelman

Arafat is ready to present new cabinet

Rawhi Fattouh, secretary of the Palestinian Legislative Council, told The Jerusalem Post yesterday that Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat has told him that his new cabinet is ready and will be presented to the PLC next week. Fattouh said that "at least eight new members will join the next cabinet." He refused to give their names.

Mohammed Najib

Confrontation in Gaza

A confrontation ensued last night at the Morag settlement in Gaza, after Palestinians tried to build a structure near the community and refused to obey IDF orders to leave the area. Palestinian Police were called in to try to persuade the squatters to leave, but the police was unsuccessful.

Mohammed Najib

Pullback negotiations continue

Israeli and Palestinian negotiators met for more than three hours last night in Tel Aviv to discuss the second pullback. Afterwards the Palestinians, headed by Minister of Local Councils Saeb Erekat, went to report on the results to Palestinian Authority deputy chairman Mahmoud Abbas, Palestinian sources said. It was agreed that the talks would resume tomorrow. Government coordinator for the territories, Maj.-Gen. Ya'acov Orr also took part in the talks.

Mohammed Najib and news agencies

Poll: Israeli support for Palestinian state drops

Support among Israeli Jews for the establishment of a Palestinian state has dropped in the past year, according to a survey released yesterday. The survey, conducted annually by the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, also found that fewer Israeli Jews believe that most Palestinians want peace.

The center polled 1,207 Jewish adults between late January and early March and found that while 66 percent believe a Palestinian state will eventually be established, just 44% support that happening. In 1997, 51% of Israeli Jews said they supported the establishment of a Palestinian state. Since 1997, the percentage of Israeli Jews who said they believe that most Palestinians want peace dropped from 65% to 55%, the survey found.

The poll also found a decrease in willingness to return land for peace - from 54% to 44% - although support remained high - 83%, compared to 89% in 1997 - for continuing peace talks with the Palestinians. The poll's margin of error was 2.8%.

AP

Youths suspected of torching Arab property

Two 15-year-olds from Kiryat Arba were arrested yesterday morning on suspicion of belonging to an illegal underground organization, and of setting fire to Arabs' cars and fields in Hebron two months ago.

Upon their arrest, the General Security Service had forbidden the boys to meet with a lawyer for four days. But after a three-hour deliberation in the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court over the legality of this, a judge "advised" police to let them confer with their lawyer, Naftali Werzberger, with whom they met for 15 minutes.

Police believe they were involved in torching eight cars, two fields and two watermelon stands, all belonging to Hebron Arabs.

Amy Klein

SLA soldier killed by roadside bomb

An SLA soldier died yesterday in a roadside explosion in southern Lebanon, making him the third SLA trooper to die in action since July 16.

The IDF said the blast occurred near Beit Yahoun in the zone's western sector at 6:20 as an SLA foot patrol was passing. Hizbullah claimed responsibility. Israeli and SLA artillery retaliated by shelling suspected guerrilla hideouts at Baraachite, just outside the security zone, the IDF said. Reports from Lebanon said one Lebanese civilian was injured in the shelling.

The SLA militiaman, who was not identified, is the 15th killed this year, about the same figure as for all of 1997. Eight IDF soldiers have been killed in the same period.

Arieh O'Sullivan

Ethiopia seeks Israeli mediation with Eritrea

Ethiopia is seeking Israeli mediation in its dispute with Eritrea over territory allegedly seized by the Eritreans and which the Addis Ababa government intends to retrieve by force if necessary. An official letter spelling out the Ethiopian government's position and addressed to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was brought here by visiting Foreign Minister Takeda Alemu and presented to Foreign Ministry Director-General Eitan Bentsur.

"We are willing to offer our assistance to both countries," a senior government source said. "Both countries involved in this conflict are friendly towards Israel."

Alemu contended that mediation efforts by the US and the Organization of African Unity have not borne fruit and requested Israel's assistance in resolving the conflict.

Jay Bushinsky

Teacher's remand extended

Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday extended by 24 hours the remand of Nava Shirabi, a teacher who is suspected of abusing the children in her care.

Shirabi, 43, of Tel Aviv, is suspected of tying a six-year-old to a chair and then beating him and of leaving the children unattended while she went out to run errands. Shirabi is to be released to house arrest today.

Iim

Capital police nab 400 for speeding

The Jerusalem police traffic department gave out more than 1,000 tickets yesterday as part of a special operation in Jerusalem, police said. Four hundred of the 1,000 tickets were given for speeding. One motorcycleist received a ticket for driving 150 kph on the Ramot highway - which has a 70 kph speed limit.

During yesterday's operation, police said they removed 45 cars from the road due to expired registrations. They also arrested a 25-year-old woman who never had a license. She was questioned and released on bail.

Amy Klein

Five buses taken off the roads

In a spot check this week of buses transporting children to a day camp at Mikve Yisrael, five of the 13 buses checked were taken off the roads due to safety deficiencies. Seven of the buses did not have the proper roadworthiness certificates.

Iim

The National Institute for Psychobiology in Israel and

The Charles E. Smith Family Laboratory for Collaborative Research in Psychobiology share the grief of

Prof. Bernard Lerer, Director of the Institute and his family

on the sad loss of his mother

THELMA LERER ז"ל

תקום ימים אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

Morocco meet aims to pressure Israel over talks deadlock

For Arabs and Moslems, Jerusalem is the most touchy issue of all in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Today's meeting in Morocco of the Islamic Conference Organization's 16-member Jerusalem Committee reflects that priority and sensitivity.

King Hassan of Morocco, the committee's permanent chair, had postponed the group's 17th meeting so as not to harm the peace process or the moderate states' preference for more normal relations with Israel.

Apparently, though, the king

concluded that pressure on Israel is needed to help break the current deadlock.

The meeting's immediate cause was the desire to respond to the Israeli government's recently announced plan to expand Jerusalem's administrative boundaries. This was widely perceived in the Arab world as a plan for annexation and tightening Israel's hold over east Jerusalem.

Indeed, the view that Israel does not intend to make concessions on east Jerusalem is understandable

ANALYSIS

By MICHAEL MORRIS

given repeated Israeli government statements, and it has been reinforced by such controversies as the opening of a second exit to the Western Wall tunnel and the proposed construction of a Jewish neighborhood on Har Homa.

While criticizing Israel is the easy part of any such meeting's agenda, the current conference's problem is

to find some way of effectively countering or punishing Israel.

One of the most popular options is to hold another meeting. This could take the form of an Arab summit or a broader international gathering sponsored by Egypt and France.

Syria, Lebanon, and other Arab states, however, oppose this idea. The location, agenda, and guest list of either type of meeting are subjects of dispute among the Arab governments.

Another approach would be to formally freeze normalization

between Arab and Islamic states and Israel. This has already largely been taken place.

Given the strong feelings in Jerusalem issue, what is surprising is not the critical statements of Arab and Islamic countries, but the fact that they have done so much to effectively promote their stand on the issue.

The writer is a senior research scholar at the BESA Center for Strategic Studies and editor of Middle East Review of International Affairs.



Pushing for a Mideast peace conference

French President Jacques Chirac, right, shares a laugh with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa at the Elysee Palace in Paris yesterday. France and Egypt are setting up working groups to advance their proposal for an international conference to break the deadlock in the Middle East peace process.

(AP)

EU: 'Cautious' Syrian nod for peace conference

BEIRUT (Reuters) - European Union envoy Miguel Angel Moratinos said yesterday he had received "cautious" Syrian endorsement of a proposal by France and Egypt for a conference to rescue Arab-Israeli peace talks.

"I found in Syria a better understanding of what has been the idea of the conference. They want to be cautious in order that the conference be well prepared," Moratinos told reporters after meeting Speaker of Parliament Nabih Berri.

Asked if he had Syrian approval to prepare a conference Moratinos, the EU's Middle East peace envoy, said: "I have (an) OK in principle to start to seriously prepare the conference. But I mean they are still cautious."

Earlier yesterday, Moratinos and Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara had discussed the conference in Damascus before the EU envoy headed to Lebanon on the second leg of a tour that will include Israel.

Moratinos said in Damascus the idea of the conference was taking shape but it needed adjustments to

suit the parties concerned to make it acceptable and successful.

French President Jacques Chirac and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in May proposed an international conference to discuss problems in the Middle East peace process, but the idea received a cool Israeli response.

The proposed conference, which would exclude belligerents initially, was discussed by Syrian President Hafez Assad and Chirac in Paris in mid-July. Assad also discussed it with Mubarak during a visit to Cairo on Sunday.

Moratinos said Assad's talks with Chirac on the conference's initiative were very fruitful.

Syrian officials said Damascus would back any initiative to revive peace talks with Israel provided it was based on the same principles used when Arab-Israeli peace talks began in Madrid in 1991.

They said the initiative should also resume from the point they had reached after sporadic peace talks between Syria and Israel between 1991 and 1996.

Sharon, Deri, Weizman, Ben-Ami attack PM's peace policies

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon yesterday criticized the government's moves to reach a redeployment agreement with the Palestinians, blasting what he called "this passion to give away land."

"I believe we should and can reach a settlement, on condition that it's built on agreements that are good for us and for the other side," Sharon said, on his return from two weeks in China and Mongolia.

Sharon, who maintains that a 13% pullback from the territories would constitute a grave danger to the state, refused to say how he intends to vote today on the bill to dissolve the Knesset.

Nor would he elaborate on statements he made during his trip, that he was considering running for

prime minister "if circumstances required it."

Other criticism of the government's handling of peace talks came from Shas party leader MK Aryeh Deri, who blasted the demand by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that the Palestinians convene the Palestinian National Council to cancel anti-Israel clauses in the Palestinian Covenant.

He said this is "a mistake which will cause damage to Israel," because it would bring a hostile body back to life and give it international standing.

President Ezer Weizman, for his part, urged the government again to speed up the peace process.

Speaking at the opening of the Histadrut convention at the Jerusalem International Convention Center, Weizman said peace would

improve the Israeli economy.

"Who knows how many of the 200,000 unemployed people could have found work and made a living in the plants and industry that foreign and domestic investors would have built in an atmosphere of peace? Or in the new hotels that would have shot up to receive millions of peace tourists?" Weizman asked.

Meanwhile, Labor MK Shlomo Ben-Ami accused Netanyahu of misleading the public by creating an impression that he is conducting negotiations with the

Palestinians when in fact, he isn't.

"The question is whether there are serious negotiations, not about a pullback but about peace. The feeling [on the Palestinian side] is that there is no such thing," Ben-Ami said, after meeting Palestinian leaders Saeb Erekat, Hassan Asfour and Mohammed Dahlan. MK Ephraim Oshaya (Labor) also attended the meeting.

Ben-Ami described the Palestinians' impressions as: "The Israelis come with some half-baked suggestion of a nature reserve, they didn't bring a formula-

lated, orderly proposal, they didn't put any map on the table, and they don't really know what they're talking about."

Rejecting Ben-Ami's critique, a source close to Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky said he is certain about the sincerity of its quest for peace.

"Sharansky believes the government is serious about wanting to carry out a second IDF troop pullback [in the West Bank]. Of course, it is not willing to do this at any price or under any conditions," the source said.

Iran expected to complete Shihab-3 prototype next year

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN and LIAT COLLINS

Iran will complete its prototype of its Shihab-3 medium-range ballistic missile by next year and will start producing them by the end of the century, according to a senior security source.

But the project still has not reached the point of no return and Iran's missile program still could be halted if the United States puts more pressure on Russia to stop Russian companies from selling missile know-how to Tehran, AOC Intelligence Maj.-Gen. Amos Malka said.

In his first appearance before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday, Malka said if the aid was stopped it would set back the Iranian efforts to deploy the Shihab-3 for several years.

"There is still a window of opportunity for the United States and the international community to put pressure on Russia," Malka was quoted as saying according to another official. "If the aid is cut off, the project could be stopped, or at least delayed," he added.

Last Tuesday's missile test by Iran was not of a prototype of the 1,300km-range Shihab-3, said a senior security source, but a preliminary examination of the engine in the single-stage rocket.

Israel believes that the Iranian technicians deliberately detonated the rocket and that it was not a malfunction which made it explode before reaching its full range.

According to the security source, Israel knew of the missile test "very close to the time of the launch."

The assessment in Israel is that Iran decided to carry out the test for strategic and political motives rather than technical ones.

The Iranians are spurred on in their efforts by a desire to become a regional power and see the medium-range missiles with non-conventional warheads as a strategic asset to achieve this, the senior security source said.

Shihab-3 is a purely Iranian-built and Iranian-assembled missile based grossly on the design of the North Korean No-Dung missile. It was totally redesigned by Russian experts.

Iran, he said, has the missile was intended for defensive purposes.

Intelligence sources here said that the Shihab-3 is to be followed by the Shihab-4 with a range of between 2,000 and 2,500 kilometers - putting southern and central Europe within its striking distance.

The Iranians are setting up production lines for the Shihab-3 and training military units to operate the missiles, the senior security source said.

According to Malka, the continued development of the Shihab-3 poses a significant threat to Israel. It would mark the first time that Iran would be able to strike at Israel directly. The missile launch showed an advanced stage of development, but does not mark the final stage, Malka told the committee.

Malka was quoted as telling the committee that Iran recently stepped up the pace of its program for fear that Russia, under pressure from the United States, would prevent Russian companies from aiding the project.

Identify With Your People By Joining In An Old Jerusalem Custom of

Walking around the Walls of its Old City

Motzai Shabbat, August 1, 1998.

At 9:15 PM: We will read Eicha near the American Consulate on Agmon Street. Bring a flashlight or candle to help you follow the reading.

At 10:15 PM: Our walk will begin. We will be passing the New Gate, Damascus Gate, the Flower Gate, the Lion's Gate and ending our walk at the Dung Gate (near the Western Wall). We will provide buses at the end of the walk to return you to Agmon Street. We have a Police Permit for the event. Come with your whole family, friends and neighbors to join in this old, yet most appropriate Jerusalem Custom on Tisha B'Av evening.

Even if you have said Eicha in your own synagogue, there will be plenty of time for you to participate in the Walk along the Walls of the Old City. Observing this old Jerusalem Custom, will insure for all those who participate in the Walk, a very meaningful Tisha B'Av.

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Police distribute sketch of serial rapist

By NOAH STREIT and Haim

Tel Aviv police yesterday distributed a composite sketch of the suspected serial rapist being sought for three recent rapes.

Information for the sketch, compiled by the investigative team, was based on testimony from the 27-year-old Italian tourist who was raped on Sunday.

According to the sketch, the suspect is a thin man who is about 25 years old and 1.75m. tall and has short, straight, combed back hair or a ponytail. He also has a wide face and thick lips, the woman said.

Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo announced the city will post the sketches in central locations, coffee houses, information billboards and other public places to help capture the rapist.

A team of 20 investigators has been formed to investigate the three recent rapes in Tel Aviv — of a 21-year-old woman in her apartment on Rehov Sheinkin, a 27-year-old woman from the Philippines in her apartment on Rehov Sokolov, and most recently the Italian woman on the stairs leading up to a friend's apartment on Rehov Hahashmonaim.

The police are still attempting to determine if the three women were raped by the same man. According to Deputy-Commander



A volunteer hangs up a copy of the police composite sketch of the suspected serial rapist yesterday in Tel Aviv. (Yael Sotnik/Israel Son)

Avi Ben-Hamo of the Yarkon District, it will take the laboratory two weeks to determine if the

DNA found on the three women belongs to the same man. Meanwhile, a Tel Aviv district

police spokeswoman said that the police was unaware of the attempted rape of a young

Filipino woman on Monday morning, which was reported in the media.

Rape crisis centers: Women shouldn't panic

By HELEN J. GLEIT

Women should not be afraid to go out at night, despite suspicions that a serial rapist is at large in Tel Aviv, Noga Shiloah, director of the Jerusalem Rape Crisis Center, said yesterday.

"Very few of the women who call here are the victims of complete strangers," she explained, adding that only 14% of the rape victims who turned to the center in 1997 were raped by people they don't know. Only 13% of the victims were raped on the street, while 23% were raped in their own homes, she added.

Cheryl Hechter, spokeswoman for the Tel Aviv Rape Crisis Center, also emphasized this, saying that only about 10% of rape victims nationwide don't know their attacker and that a very small percentage of rapists violently beat their victims, in addition to raping them. In contrast, 30% of the victims are assaulted by a relative, she said.

It is "quite rare" for a woman to be raped by a stranger at 7 p.m., while it is still light out in a public area, as happened to an Italian tourist on Sunday in the stairwell of a Tel Aviv apartment building, Israel Women's Network spokeswoman Orit Sultzeanu said yesterday.

The tourist, and two other young women who were raped in the past month, were violently beaten and robbed as well.

"It's a bit of a problem to talk about precautions" to prevent similar rapes, Hechter said. "The most important thing a woman could possibly do to prevent rape is to be in touch with her instincts... if you feel uncomfortable, get out of a situation."

"The most dangerous place is at

home or at the homes of relatives and friends," Shiloah said. "I think if you go somewhere alone you have to be careful and take all of the precautions you possibly can to defend yourself... on the other hand, I think it would be wrong for the women in Tel Aviv to lock themselves inside."

"One of the biggest myths is that it's scarier at night than during the day, that it's scarier on the street than in your home," Hechter said. "It's easier to tell people."

"You don't hitchhike, don't wear short dresses... it won't happen to you. But that's wrong."

"Most rape can't be prevented by anything other than proper education," Hechter added. "Access to information about rape is the best precaution."

The center runs seminars and sponsors lectures at schools around the country to teach boys why rape is wrong and to teach girls that they can say no, she said.

Victims of rape and sexual assault can call 1202 to reach the rape crisis center closest to them for counseling and assistance. There are nine rape crisis centers around the country, all of which can refer callers to English-speaking counselors. There also is a special hot line for male victims — (03)-517-9179.

The centers and IWN also have a special program, run with the cooperation of the State Attorney's Office, "to help rape victims not to be raped again in the legal procedure," Sultzeanu said.

"If a woman is raped and files a complaint with the rape crisis center, it helps a woman through all the procedures... and tries to press so that the case goes forward quickly," she explained.

Women MKs blast Porat for sexist remarks about IBA anchorwoman

By GIL HOFFMAN

Women MKs yesterday sharply criticized Israel Broadcasting Authority Director-General Uri Porat for calling outgoing Channel 1 anchorwoman Geula Even a "pretty girl who does first-rate work, but I am not sure she can handle the evening news."

Meretz MKs Naomi Chazan and Anat Maor accused Porat of chauvinism for his remark, made on Monday.

Even is being replaced by former anchor Haim Yavin, who is returning to Channel 1 after 10 months at Channel 2.

"Why didn't you speak about Yavin's looks when you commented on the reasons for his return?" Chazan asked Porat.

"If calling her pretty is offensive, then I take it back," Porat replied.

"I am glad he apologized, but I don't take back what I said," Chazan told *The Jerusalem Post* after the meeting.

Maor accused Porat of politicizing the IBA, and alleged that newscasts have had a right-wing slant since Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu appointed him to replace Mordechai Kirschbaum.

Chazan went further, accusing Porat of being appointed for the purpose of shutting down Channel 1 and causing IBA employees to fear for their jobs.

Porat denied the accusations as "mudslinging" and added that "my only sin is being born on the wrong side of the political line. Every decision I have made as head of the IBA has been based entirely on professional considerations without regard to politics."

He also denied that Channel 1

would be shut down.

"There will always be complaints against the IBA," Porat said. "Constructive criticism is good. But blind criticism by people like Naomi Chazan, who I've never even met before but who claims to know what I'm thinking, is bad."

Porat denied making statements attributed to him in yesterday's *Yedioth Aharonot*, which quoted him as referring to the recently cancelled show *Popolitika* as a "livestock market."

He said *Popolitika* would be replaced in the fall by a show with the same focus but without the "pop."

Asked about the NIS 1.3 million salary figure for Yavin quoted in the Hebrew press, Porat said the amount was offered by Kirschbaum, and that the MKs should ask him about it.

Haredi soldiers complain food not kosher enough

By ARNHE O'SULLIVAN

Army grub has never been anything to write home about, but a group of haredi soldiers called up for duty have fired off a complaint to the defense minister that their food is not kosher enough.

The haredi soldiers also complained of other restrictions infringing on their religious way of life. The complaint was delivered to Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai through Jerusalem's deputy mayor, Haim Miller. The complaints come amid calls by Yeshiva students in uniform.

Mordechai's reply, which was backed up by IDF Chief Chaplain Maj-Gen. Gad Navon, was an outright rejection of the claims, stating that the IDF has the highest standards of kashrut in the world.

Even the most strict can eat IDF food without any apprehension or guilt, the reply said.

The complaint, which was reported by *Yim*, said that the haredi company was unhappy that all of the food served was not kosher lemeshadrin, and that the non-meshadrin food was being mixed with meshadrin kosher food.

According to the complaint, some soldiers in the company had refused to eat, and were going home every few days to get a proper meal. "We hereby notify you that we have no faith in the meshadrin kashrut the army is supplying us with, and there is apparently no way they can supply the needs of the haredi sector," the complaint said.

Furthermore, they complained that they have not been allowed to immerse themselves in a mikva, that their welfare officer was female and that a woman, instead of a man, lectured them.

Mordechai's reply said that the haredi soldiers should have taken up the matter with the unit rabbi, or the IDF chief chaplain himself.

Policemen attacked after haredi protesters' arrest

By AMY KLEIN

Haredim in Mea She'arim yesterday attacked policemen in response to the arrest of 10 haredi protesters during continued demonstrations at Road Number 1 in Pisgat Ze'ev. They threw stones and garbage bins at policemen, lightly injuring two, one in the head and one in the foot.

Two groups of haredim had demonstrated again at the construction site in northern Jerusalem.

This followed the resumption of work at the site by the Moriah construction company — the municipali-

ty's contractor — following a new ruling by the Jerusalem Rabbinical Council. The council had previously decided to rebury the graves found on the site about 60 meters away, but last week decided to rebury them 30 meters below their current location.

Rabbi Menahem Blumenthal, director of the Chief Rabbinate's office in Jerusalem, said the change was technical and unrelated to pressures from more radical haredi factions, who reject the new ruling as well.

By LIAT COLLINS

The Knesset officially starts two-and-a-half months of recess tonight, although Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon noted that not only are weekly plenum sessions and committee meetings likely, but the last barrage of bills to be heard could result in an all-night session which will last until Thursday.

As customary, Tichon published the end of sitting statistics for the House yesterday, singling out for praise for overall participation and

activity Ruby Rivlin (Likud), Nissim Dahan (Shas), Benny Elon (Moleket) and Shevah Weiss (Labor). As in previous sittings, those recording the greatest absences were Aryeh Deri (Shas), Ehud Olmert (Likud), Shimon Peres (Labor) and Ehud Barak (Labor).

While the MKs are officially on their break, the plenum will be refurbished and fitted with new chairs and lighting, for the first time in more than 30 years.

Knesset Clerk Aryeh Hahn said the House is considering what to

do with the old seats which have historic value, like the seat of Yitzhak Rabin. Shimon Peres and Menachem Begin all sat on as opposition leader and the chair currently used by MK Haim Ramon (Labor) which once seated David Ben-Gurion.

The cost of the refurbishment amounts to some NIS 3 million, NIS 1.2m. being spent on the new leather seats.

If the Knesset needs to convene during the recess for special sessions or a vote on the redeployment, MKs will use the audi-

um instead.

Tichon described the summer session which is ending as "difficult." He admitted to suffering from personal criticism and a series of unflattering press reports about him and his wife, Ludmilla, after comments he made concerning the High Court.

He also was criticized after raising the idea of installing a towering, revolving candelabrum on the roof of the House to mark the Knesset's 50th birthday. Yesterday he described the idea as "a curiosity."

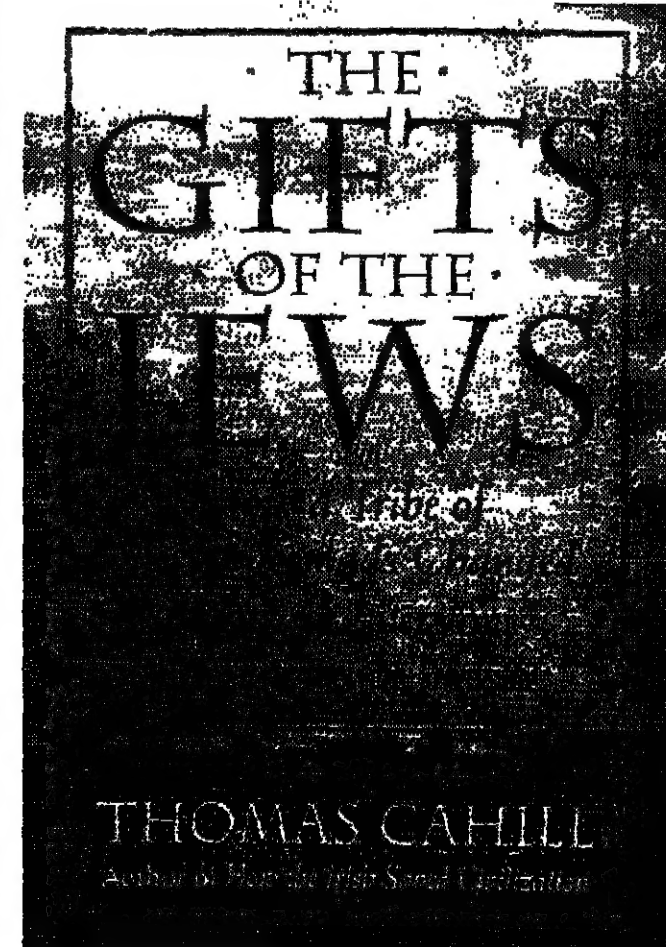
Security issues also continue to trouble him, he said, particularly after the attack on Capitol Hill in Washington earlier this week, which shows the potential for such attacks can be found everywhere.

Since June 1996, the Knesset has sat 232 times for 1,315 hours — a figure likely to go up as MKs were expected to spend marathon sessions last night and tonight clearing their tables of a backlog of bills. Some 2,340 bills were submitted and 190 laws were passed in this Knesset so far.

Knesset to be refurbished during summer recess

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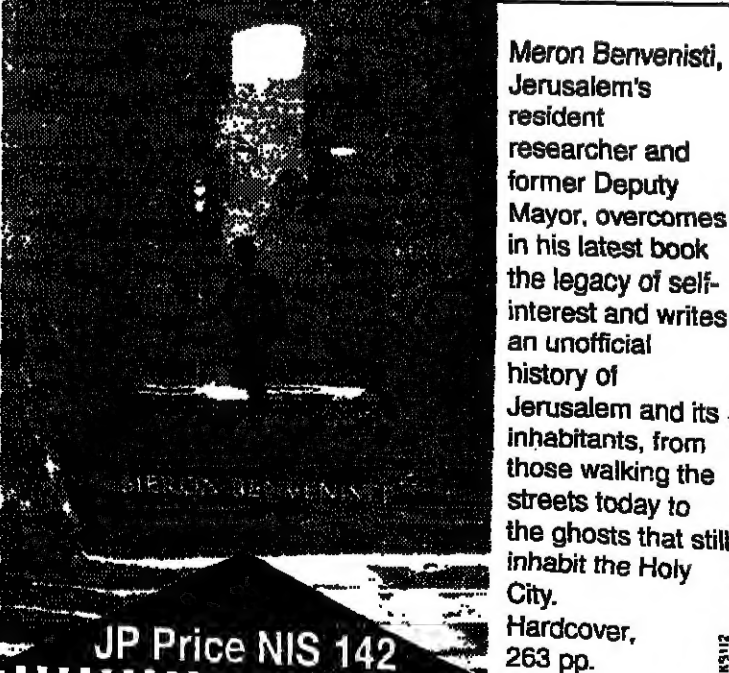
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High Court: Statute of limitations was suspended in Deri case

By DAN IZENBERG

The High Court of Justice yesterday ruled that the statute of limitations on the allegations against Shas MK Aryeh Deri for public wrongdoing during his tenure as Interior Ministry director-general and interior minister will not go into effect in August.

The nine-person panel of judges, headed by Supreme Court President Aharon Barak, decided that the statute of limitations was suspended on the day that the attorney-general asked the Knesset to lift Deri's immunity. In this ruling, the High Court of Justice avoided the necessity of applying judicial review to an intermediary step in a Knesset procedure — in this case, the three-step procedure involved in deciding whether to

lift the immunity of a parliamentary peer.

Barak, who wrote the decision, ruled that "when the attorney-general submits a draft of the indictment to the Knesset Speaker in order to lift his immunity, the statute of limitations is suspended for those transgressions included in the draft of the indictment which the attorney-general has submitted to the Speaker."

In 1994, the State Attorney's Office prepared an indictment against Deri on charges of fraud and breach of trust by a public servant for allegedly forcing local authorities to channel government money to haredi institutions in their jurisdiction. At the time, attorney-general Michael Ben-Yair agreed to postpone the indictment until the end of Deri's

trial in Jerusalem District Court on charges of personal wrongdoing. But the trial stretched on much longer than expected. Last September, Ben-Yair's successor Elyakim Rubinstein decided to submit the second indictment for fear that the statute of limitations would take effect by August 1998, five years after the last police interrogation in the case.

After four meetings, however, the Knesset House Committee decided, on June 23, to postpone the vote on Rubinstein's request until three months after the end of the summation arguments in Deri's current trial. The committee did so on the assumption that the statute of limitations had indeed been suspended.

Two watchdog organizations, Amtai and the Movement for Quality Government, decided to

test the assumption, since there never had been a ruling on the matter.

Barak wrote that it wasn't natural for the High Court of Justice to be the first body to deal with this issue. However, it decided to do so, among other reasons, because by doing so, it was precluding the necessity to interfere with an intermediary court decision, something the court is loathe to do.

Barak explained that had the court ruled that the statute of limitations had not been suspended, the House Committee would have voluntarily decided to vote on the request immediately. If it ruled that the countdown was suspended, the petitioners would be satisfied. In the event, the court ruled that the countdown was indeed suspended.

Both sides said they were satisfied with the outcome.

Knesset legal adviser Zvi Inbar, who represented the House Committee, said afterwards that "the High Court accepted our position in full."

Elad Shraga, who represented the Movement for Quality Government, said, "Our petition was accepted in full. What counts for us is that the countdown towards the statute of limitations was halted. We wanted to remove the cloud of doubt hovering over this question."

Inbar said the House Committee will not let the matter drag on. The summation arguments in Deri's trial for private wrongdoing are due to be heard in September. Unless there are further delays, the debate on the lifting of his immunity should resume by December 1998.

NEWS

in brief

Palestinians caught with Skyhawk plane pieces

Four Palestinians were arrested yesterday for breaking into a storage room in Beit Zayit. During a search of their car, Jerusalem police found pieces of the Skyhawk plane that crashed on Monday near Tarkumiya, police said. The Palestinians, residents of Hebron and Tarkumiya, stole aluminum window-sidings from the storage room. They then fled and the room's owner alerted the police, who caught them. One of the men admitted that he had collected the parts after the plane crashed, police said.

Amy Klein

Woman robs elderly man in capital

A woman knocked down a 70-year-old man and robbed him of NIS 2,000 in Jerusalem yesterday, police said. The man was waiting at a bus stop on Saint Martin Street near the Jerusalem Tennis Center, when the woman threw him down and took his money. He had been to the bank a few minutes before. The woman fled, and the man, suffering from light injuries to his knees, was taken to Shaare Zedek Hospital.

Amy Klein

Ruling on Sheves ban due next week

The Jerusalem District Court yesterday considered requests to lift a ban on publishing details of the charge sheet against the former director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, Shimon Sheves. Justice Ivo Habash is due to give a ruling on the matter next week. The ban was imposed last week after media reports carried details from a draft of the charge sheet. Sheves would like to see the ban lifted so that he can respond to what was publicized. He is suspected of accepting a bribe of NIS 350,000 in an affair involving a foreign country.

Itim

Postal Authority offers currency exchange

The Postal Authority is throwing bucks around — plastering the floors of its postal branches with enlarged "dollars." The gimmick is meant to remind the public that the postal banks at some of its largest branches now allow the public to buy foreign currency at competitive rates and without paying the stiff fees demanded by commercial banks. The regular banks charge between NIS 20 and NIS 60 to purchase each \$1,000.

Judy Siegel

Committee backs bill to curb release of Palestinian prisoners

By DAN IZENBERG

The Knesset Law Committee yesterday approved for second and third reading a bill stating that Israel will not release any more Palestinian security or criminal prisoners until the Palestinian Authority hands over all the suspected terrorists Israel has asked for in accordance with the Oslo Agreements.

The bill, initiated by Michael Kleiner (Geshet), is entitled "Mutuality in Abiding by Agreements." The government was embarrassed by the legislation since it gives legal status to a policy it has championed since coming to power, while denying it the discretionary power it has thus far enjoyed for implementing it.

Reuven Rivlin (Likud), who voted for the bill, said that "we coalition members are in a very embarrassing situation. On the one hand, the Ministerial Law Committee, headed by Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, supported the bill. On the other hand, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu opposes it."

"This bill is really a political declaration and the question is whether it should be included in the country's constitutional makeup, since it shackles the government and the prime minister," he added.

In order to provide the government with some room to maneuver, committee chairman Hanan Porat added another clause stating that in "special circumstances," the government could release terrorists.

He said that the release of captured IAF navigator Ron Arad or Israeli hostages could be considered special circumstances.

Swiss gov't asks US state not to impose sanctions

By MARILYN HENRY and news agencies

With a settlement of Holocaust claims elusive, the Swiss government has asked public finance officials in all 50 states and in 15 major US cities not to impose sanctions on Swiss firms, the government's task force on World War II said yesterday in Bern.

"For us and our country, justice is a continuing process that cannot be reduced to simple dollar amounts," the Swiss government said in a letter to American officials, including all 50 governors. "It is our hope that you will join with us in calling for an end to counterproductive rhetoric and misguided sanctions that will only serve to delay a just and lasting conclusion, in the interests of the survivors of the Holocaust," said the letter, dated Friday. It was signed by the Swiss ambassador to the United States, Alfred Defago, and Thomas Borer, the diplomat heading the task force.

For six months, Undersecretary of State Stuart Eizenstat has argued against sanctions. Trying to retain a grip on US foreign policy, Eizenstat has clashed with New York City and state finance officials who earlier this month announced that they will refrain from doing business with Swiss commercial banks if there is no settlement by September 1 of claims against the banks.

Survivors and Jewish organizations charge that they hoarded Jewish assets deposited during the Holocaust era.

Lawyers for the banks and victims met on Monday for five hours with Edward Korman, the US federal judge hearing the class-action lawsuits against the Swiss banks. The two sides appear far apart on a settlement, according to news agency reports.

The two major Swiss banks, Union Bank and Credit Suisse, on June 19 offered \$600 million to settle the claims. That was dismissed by survivors' lawyers and Jewish organizations as "insulting." They were reportedly seeking \$1.5 billion, although Edgar Bronfman, head of the World Jewish Congress, told the *Forward* newspaper last month that he wanted \$3 billion to settle claims.

The Swiss government is not a direct party to the talks, although Eizenstat has said it must become involved.

Last week, at a Senate Banking Committee hearing, the WJC said it had been duped by the US government, which, according to the WJC, promised in June that the Swiss banks would make a good-faith settlement offer. In exchange for the offer, the WJC was expected to remain silent on what was then the pending merger of Union Bank of Switzerland and the Swiss Bank Corporation.



Jerusalem's unemployed wait to speak to counselors at the Employment Service office in the capital yesterday.

(Itamar Harari)

Unemployed wait in line with hope, resignation

By NOAH STREET and Kim

The people populating the local Jerusalem branch of the Employment Service yesterday were a cross section of Israeli society: young women with children, haredi men, and older individuals. What they had in common sitting on the uncomfortable benches in the waiting room was hope for light at the end of the tunnel, and a job at the end of their interview.

While Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav was warning that the unemployment figures reflected a dangerous socio-economic situation, saying he would trade "a one percent higher inflation rate or budget deficit for a one percent lower unemployment rate," those on line

were not particularly hopeful their situation would soon be resolved.

"Here's the problem — if you are old, like I am, then who wants to hire an old woman. If you are young then you probably have children and no one wants to hire you either," said a 50-year-old woman who was recently laid off from her job of 16 years.

A friend of hers, nearing the same age, explained that the Employment Service is a poor place to seek employment.

"Many people come here just to pick up their certificate of unemployment so they can receive their unemployment check and then go to private manpower agencies to find work. Because these agencies are private and they receive money from the potential employer, they

often do a better job at placement than the government," she said.

Shlomit Kandror, 25, was sitting with her seven-month-old son on her lap, a resigned look on her face. She was laid off two years ago and has been searching for a job ever since. When she first came to the office they enrolled her in a course, which she completed, but soon after she gave birth to her son. With a four-year-old daughter and a seven-month-old son, Shlomit acknowledged that she is not an employer's dream.

"I've been searching for a job again, for about five months now. The problem is that I have children, one that needs constant care. Even if I leave my children in child-care, most jobs would have

me working during the time that I have to pick up my children."

Shlomit is married, and her husband is employed, but they require a second salary to sustain their family.

Deciding to have his fourth son in Israel, a haredi-looking man from Neveh Ya'acov left his post as a kashrut supervisor in Europe and moved here. However "finding work as a kashrut supervisor in Israel is hard. Therefore I am here looking for new work. This is my first time here, but I have heard that many people have trouble finding jobs... I don't think that my problem finding work is related to the current unemployment. I think it would be probably whenever I would have decided to come to Israel."

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Hold the pendulum

The late British prime minister Harold Wilson coined a popular catchphrase to identify foreign speculators undermining the pound during his term in office: They were the Gnomes of Zurich.

His supporters adopted it with glee, the ideal personification of gray, humorless, sinister bankers. And, of course, Swiss. The conservative, well-heeled smugness with which Switzerland has sniffed off the jibes of envious foreigners merely fueled more jibes about gnomes and cuckoo clocks and chocolate. The gray suits that lurked in Masonic secrecy behind discreet brass plaques seemed as thick-skinned as rhino hide.

The Swiss were too good for the rest of the world - refusing to join the United Nations and scorning the European Union. They had done very nicely, thank you, out of World War II, while retaining an air of self-righteous superiority, using their historic neutrality as a mirror to deflect 100 percent of all criticism.

Now it's all over, the facade has cracked, the rhino hides are breached. "Tis pride that pulls the country down," said Othello, and "pride that licks the dust," said Alexander Pope, though he probably didn't mean gold dust.

Hold the stone

However, while everyone loves to see the office Mr. Smatass-Smug get his comeuppance, the time comes when someone has to say "enough," before the pendulum swings too far and Mr. S-S is found swinging like a pendulum from a beam in his lonely bachelor pad. Now that everyone has had their fun and hurled their insults at Switzerland, it is time for a timeout. Hold that pendulum.

In the Christian gospel, a tale is told of a mob howling for a woman caught in adultery to be stoned. "Fine," said Jesus, "let whoever is without guilt throw the first stone."

A lot of the stone-throwing against Switzerland for its wartime sins has been coming from the high moral ground of the United States - an upright upland where profiteering from war or other nations' woes is, of course, unheard of. (Don't mention Central America.)

The reams of negative material on Switzerland emanating from American presses make one wonder - did the Swiss ever do anything right, anything good in their entire history?

The sins of the Swiss, particularly the bankers, are being well documented and reported. The banks' failure to pay fast and adequate compensation to the surviving victims of Nazism seems like a despicable delaying tactic.

But some other facts are being conveniently overlooked. Facts which appeared in the second Eizenstat report on US and Allied relations with neutral states during and after the war.

(Issued last month, it was compiled under the leadership of US Undersecretary of Commerce Stuart Eizenstat.)

How many?

There is a balloon of hypocrisy in the attacks on Switzerland which needs to be pricked from time to time - smugness is not unique to the Swiss.

Perhaps American commentators should remind themselves again that the US interned its own ethnic-Japanese citizens in an act of blatant racism and that it accepted only 21,000 refugees from Europe during World War II. Switzerland has described as inexcusable its wartime government's turning back of 30,000 refugees because "the boat was full." But 300,000 refugees, including 30,000 Jews, did make it into the boat. "Carl Lutz, the Swiss vice consul in Budapest provided letters of protection that saved the lives of 62,000 Jews," the Eizenstat report says.

A perception peddled by some of the Nazi-gold reporting is that Switzerland was neutral but pro-Nazi. Alone among the neutrals, Switzerland was totally surrounded by the Axis. It was not collusion but its high state of military readiness to defend the Alpine state that dissuaded the Germans from a costly invasion.

Secondly, says Eizenstat, "the Swiss people were overwhelmingly sympathetic to the Allies, even against the backdrop of strict neutrality."

Like clockwork Switzerland made a crucial strategic contribution to the Allies by allowing the OSS (embryo CIA) to use Bern as its main listening post on the European mainland. Throughout the war it was the main protecting power for Allied prisoners of war.

There is another perception that Switzerland is doing nothing to clear up the mark of the past. First, there is the multinational Bergier Commission tasked with detailing every aspect of Swiss relations with Nazi Germany. (Prof. Saul Friedlander of Tel Aviv University is a member.) The Volcker Committee is charged with tracking all outstanding dormant assets in Swiss banks and industry and making restitution.

The Swiss Fund for Needy Holocaust Victims is making payments from an endowment of 275 million Swiss francs.

And finally, there is the Swiss Foundation for Solidarity which was set up to guard the gate to the future. Its task is to combat injustice, poverty and violence at home and abroad. None of these are inactive committees, all are working flat out and producing detailed interim reports. Swiss efficiency and organization may have a dull or funny side, but sometimes it also works like clockwork, so let's hear a little credit for that too.



Thomas O'Dwyer

Truth and consequences

As South Africa's high-profile probes into the dark days of apartheid draw to a close, both sides paradoxically share a sense of agony and abuse

By JEREMY LOVELL

CAPE TOWN - Archbishop Desmond Tutu's investigation into the dark truths of South African apartheid winds up this week with victims relieved that their stories have at last been heard and many whites hurt by the guilt they are asked to shoulder.

The agonies of those who have heard for the first time the cruel details of how their loved ones died have been matched by the anguish of former rulers who feel they and their race have been defamed by a biased panel created to crucify them.

Opinion is deeply divided over whether the statutory Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) has reconciled or further divided a nation torn by decades of white domination.

"The Truth Commission has ended up with a more polarized country. I and my people feel totally alienated from the new South Africa," former apartheid defense chief Constand Viljoen, leader of the Afrikaner Freedom Front, told Reuters.

"Reconciliation. That is where the Truth Commission has failed," according to Marthinus van Schalkwijk, leader of the National Party, which imposed apartheid for 45 years.

"The people of South Africa are now further apart than when the Truth Commission started," he said.

Tutu, the 1994 Nobel Peace prize winner who has been the TRC's chairman and moral conscience, firmly disagrees.

"I am thrilled in many ways at what has taken place. We were asked to try and find the truth - and we have discovered a fair degree of that - and to promote reconciliation," he said.

"The commission can make a contribution, and perhaps a significant contribution to reconciliation. But it is going to be the work of every single South African."

MOST of the evidence from the 2,500 people chosen from among

21,000 victims of gross human-rights violations pointed to atrocities committed by or on behalf of whites.

The TRC is empowered only to investigate and not to prosecute. It can grant immunity from prosecution for politically motivated offenses and can offer limited compensation to victims.

Veteran African National Congress (ANC) activist and present Transportation minister Mac Maharaj, once known as the most tortured political prisoner, believes the process will lead to healing.

"I am of the strong view that reconciliation needs to be understood as a process that will take a fair amount of time, particularly in a society such as South Africa," he said.

"What is crucial to that process is that victim and perpetrator need to reach out to each other in the context of reconciliation."

Tony Leon, head of the Democratic Party, which is rapidly developing into the main opposition party to the ANC, takes a cautiously middle view.

"Everyone's prejudices have been exposed. The majority of blacks are appalled and the majority of whites just want to close the book as quickly as possible," he said.

"But it's been eye-opening for those people in whose names these things were done and who generally didn't know what was happening," he added.

Public hearings into the activities of President Nelson Mandela's former wife Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, admissions by a former government minister that the security services bombed church buildings and cinemas, and revelations of a dirty tricks poison program have by turns shocked and revolted people.

THE main criticism of the TRC is that it has been heavily slanted against the former apartheid regime and its supporters, while turning a blind eye to the murder and torture of ANC dissidents in

the liberation movement's terror bases.

"In the initial stages there was a good relationship, but the whole process as it developed was so biased against my people that I was unable to go ahead," Viljoen said.

"It has shown bias towards the former liberation forces and has been detrimental to former state officials. Of the 17 commissioners, 15 are pro ANC," he added.

Leon said final judgments should be based on the final report, which will be handed to Mandela in October, adding: "One of the most significant elements is how the actions of the current government are going to be dealt with in the report, because those are the people who are currently governing."

Once more Tutu leaps to the defense of his commission.

"Even before we started, people said it was going to be a witch hunt against the former government, Afrikaners, and biased in favor of the ANC. All the evidence is in the opposite direction," he said.

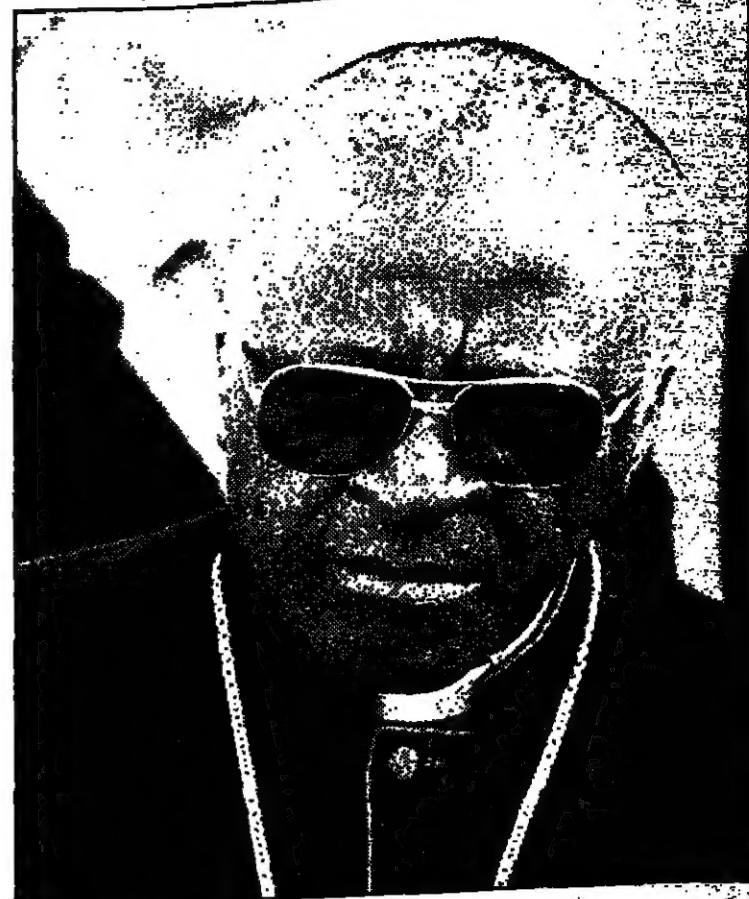
"For nobody have we had a nine-day public hearing other than for Mrs. Winnie Madikizela-Mandela. If we had done that for one Afrikaner there would have been hell to pay," he said.

He told Reuters in an interview that he had threatened to resign when the ANC said initially it was not going to apply for amnesty, a decision later reversed.

He also noted that the commission had tried its best to be as diplomatic as possible in its dealings with former president P. W. Botha, who is currently on trial for refusing to give evidence on the activities of his government.

"Everybody will say we bent over backwards to try to accommodate P. W. Botha. Many will say we were soft in our handling of him," he said with a resigned shrug.

The Truth Commission will be suspended on July 31 and reconvene briefly in September to adopt a final report.



TRC chairman Archbishop Tutu: 'The commission can make a significant contribution to reconciliation. But it is going to be the work of every single South African.'

A small team will spend the following two months editing the draft final report. Once approved, it will be printed and handed formally to Mandela at the end of October.

An autonomous Amnesty Committee, set up under the same act of parliament, will continue to sift through the 7,060 applications for clemency it has received in a process that is likely to last until next June.

For Tutu, a tireless campaigner against apartheid, the process has been exhausting and emotional.

"A low point has been the fact that we have not been able to deliver anything to victims," he

said. "Another low point has been the attitude largely of the white community and of some members of the former government. They have been mean-spirited in the face of extraordinary magnanimity on the other side," he added.

But the process has had its highs as well, one of which was the handshake between former air force officer Neville Clarendon, blinded in 1983 by a bomb placed in a Pretoria street, and the former ANC guerrilla who planted the device.

"That seemed to be a kind of defining moment about reconciliation," Tutu said. (Reuters)

Slovenia enjoys capitalism, at a price

By NOVICA MIHAJLOVIC

LJUBLJANA - Since gaining independence from former Yugoslavia in 1991, Slovenia has become one of central Europe's most prosperous states, struggling off its old Communist ways and nurturing a market economy.

The small Alpine country, which is roughly the size of Canada's Lake Ontario, boasts a handsome set of macroeconomic figures and is negotiating membership with the European Union.

But prosperity and political freedom have a downside - corruption, which has reared its ugly head in all echelons of society.

"Corruption is becoming a growing problem for Slovenia," says Barbara Brezigar, head of the

state's prosecuting team in charge of special tasks. "There is a suspicion that it takes place at all levels of public life."

Corruption has long existed in Slovenia but the transition from a socialist to a market-led economy has provided fertile ground in which it can thrive, Brezigar said.

"Corruption is a global problem, it doesn't just go on in transition countries. But transition offers more space for its growth - the more money there is, the more opportunities for bribery there are."

Violent crime remains rare in Slovenia and city streets are generally safe.

Brezigar's team was set up two years ago to tackle corruption as well as drugs smuggling, weapons trafficking and copyright violation

- all of which have grown with the country's prosperity.

Brezigar's "special forces" team comprises crack police, criminologists and six prosecutors, including herself.

Much of their work is concentrated on local and state administration, especially in cases of public tenders for construction projects involving large sums of money.

The team is already examining cases of alleged corruption involving people from "the highest political positions," Brezigar says. She refuses to name names as investigations are at an early stage.

Brezigar says her team's job has been made harder by political interference. "People in high political posts are often well linked to those with a lot of money, so this

might be a source for a lack of political will to speed up solving corruption cases," she said.

The European Union's judicial mission in February called on Slovenian courts to speed up their handling of cases.

Latest government figures show that a total of some 500,000 cases are still waiting to be dealt with. Even when a case reaches court, it can still drag on for several years.

Brezigar says prosecutors should be able to give priority to corruption cases in which the largest sums of money are likely to be involved. "Cases in which people with money and power are involved should have an absolute priority in our over-burdened courts," she said. "But powerful culprits easily delay procedures

and defend themselves."

Other official sources cite alleged corruption within the police force as an added complication.

One senior police officer, who did not want to be named, said some officers and state prosecutors were afraid to denounce corruption because of possible revenge attacks. In fact, Brezigar's team has never been threatened and does not receive special protection.

"We all know of some bribery cases among our officers," the police officer said. "But no policeman wants to testify against his colleagues."

Loyalty also made police reluctant to expose "crooked" colleagues, the officer said, citing an old Slovenian saying: "One crow never pecks out another crow's eyes." (Reuters)

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White House counsel's silence irks Clinton's aides

By RUTH MARCUS

WASHINGTON — Independent counsel Kenneth Starr's subpoena of President Clinton dominated the news all weekend.

But at the White House senior staff meeting Monday morning, not a word was raised about how the radioactive matter should be handled. And when the chance came for him to report on the legal response, White House counsel Charles F. C. Ruff maintained his usual silence.

That the Clinton White House could be so consumed by a matter about which its top aides have so little operating knowledge underscores the uniquely powerful role played by Ruff, the fifth and longest-serving of Clinton's White House counsels.

As the first White House since the Nixon days learns to live under the cloud of potential impeachment, Ruff — who served as Watergate special prosecutor two decades ago — has become one of the few White House advisers in possession of information about the Monica Lewinsky matter that could be critical to the Clinton presidency.

"What used to be one of the most obscure staff jobs now has become a name that earns major Rush Limbaugh attention," said Vice President Al Gore's chief of staff Ron Klain.

Ruff — who prosecuted illegal contributions to President Richard Nixon during Watergate — took office in February 1997 in the midst of the firestorm over Clinton's 1996 campaign fund-raising. His back-

ground as a white-collar criminal defense lawyer with long experience helping Democratic politicians to extricate themselves from messy situations has proved particularly relevant since Lewinsky became a household word.

But his tight-lipped stance has frustrated and angered many White House political aides who say the caution of the criminal defense lawyer is not the optimum strategy for maintaining the president's public standing.

While Ruff's calm and self-effacing manner has helped mitigate the personal rancor, one senior aide described "a palpable frustration, almost bordering on bitterness," over his lawyerly approach.

"Chuck has a level of control over this that is unprecedented," one senior official said.

RUFF has been in the forefront of critical decisions by the White House to make broad assertions of executive privilege and attorney-client privilege to head off testimony in the Lewinsky probe — arguments in which the White House Monday again found itself on the losing end as a federal appeals court here rejected its contention that Clinton's conversations with White House lawyers were shielded by attorney-client privilege.

During the twice-daily conference calls among the president's lawyers, Ruff, along with Bruce Lindsey, Lanny Brewer and Cheryl Mills of the counsel's office, is on the line with Clinton's outside lawyers — David Kendall, Robert

Bennett and Mickey Kantor.

Ruff is forthright about his attitude toward disclosure outside the small circle of lawyers with a similar need to know.

"The less rather than more approach," he called it, a formulation that, by accident or design, is the mirror image of the "more rather than less" openness promised by President Clinton when the Lewinsky allegations first surfaced.

Following that principle, Ruff for weeks would not confirm to fellow aides that the president, whom he unfailingly refers to as "my client," had asserted executive privilege to block Starr's prosecutors.

Last week, he refused to tell White House colleagues whether the president had been subpoenaed by Starr, infuriating some political advisers inside and outside the administration.

"It was such an unnecessary inflation of the story... a self-inflicted wound," said one adviser.

Said another, "Instead of appearing to be cooperative... instead of making the most of this, it seems to me they have frittered away much of what they could have gotten out of this in terms of public relations and having you people interpret this as a big move on the part of the president."

Summing up months of disagreements, political adviser Rahm Emanuel said of Ruff: "He doesn't do strategy. He doesn't do politics. We did have the struggle. It's resolved. It's not like he said,

"Shut up and get out of the room. He just said 'No.'"

White House counselor Paul Begala said he became so exasperated once that he announced, "If a secret was a needle and it was stuck in Chuck, you couldn't pull it out with a John Deere tractor." Ruff, he said, just smiled.

WHITE House press secretary Michael McCurry, who has frequently locked horns with Ruff over questions of disclosure, said he understood the difficult position in which the lawyer found himself.

"It would be easy to write a slam job on this guy," he said. "It's easy to find plenty of people around here who are chafing and saying he's Queeg-like and doesn't share information, but I think I understand why."

In a recent 1½-hour interview in his West Wing office, Ruff acknowledged the tension and described it as an unfortunate fact of life under the specter of an independent counsel.

"It drives them crazy, and sometimes it drives me crazy to have my colleagues who have other goals in life say 'come on,'" Ruff said, sitting in the same office he first visited as a young Justice Department lawyer meeting with Nixon's White House counsel, John Dean.

Although he sometimes pauses to appreciate the irony of landing in Dean's old job, Ruff dismissed comparisons to Watergate as off-base.

"We were talking in 1973 and 1974 about people plotting about breaking into buildings and

obstructing justice and paying people off," he said. "And to even talk about these two things in the same sentence to me is so extraordinary."

Kendall, the president's private lawyer and Ruff's soul mate on questions of disclosure, praised Ruff's "coolness under fire."

Ruff, he said, is "tough-minded... in terms of being willing to understand that there are some times when you had just better wait and get it right because otherwise you'll get hammered on charges of dissembling."

On joining the White House, Ruff consolidated power over the legal team handling "damage control" on matters such as fund-raising and Whitewater and had it report directly to him.

Former White House special counsel Lanny Davis, who clashed with Ruff over media strategy during the fund-raising inquiry, said that in retrospect Ruff was correct in his more restrained approach.

"I believed we were for the most part in a political arena on a pure partisanship basis and we ought to act that way. I don't think he disagreed... but he would say what's effective is for you to be factual and for you to be a lawyer. At the end of the day, he was right, not always, but most of the time."

RUFF'S no-comment approach does not come naturally. His parents both worked in public relations, and his 87-year-old mother is still active representing clients in the music industry.

After attending Swarthmore

College and Columbia Law School, the New York City native spotted a flier advertising Ford Foundation teaching opportunities in Africa and jumped at the chance, traveling to Liberia with his wife to teach law.

"It was one of those great things you can only do when you're young and stupid," Ruff said.

One morning he woke up with a flu-like illness and could not move his legs; he has been paralyzed ever since as a result of a mysterious disease that even Jonas Salk, the inventor of the polio vaccine, could not identify.

Ruff's closest colleagues say he is such a private person that they have never asked about his disability.

"Law is a sedentary profession," he said, dismissing questions about how using a wheelchair has affected his life. "It's not something I talk about."

Ruff joined the Justice Department, moving up through the ranks and eventually over to the Watergate special prosecution force, then became US attorney for the District of Columbia from 1979 to 1982, overseeing part of the Abscam prosecution of members of Congress.

As a partner at Covington & Burling, one of the city's most prestigious law firms, his work was more often behind-the-scenes, trying to head off indictments, than in the courtroom.

Among his fellow Washington lawyers, Ruff enjoys almost unparalleled stature. "The most respected guy in town," Reid

Weingarten called Ruff. "One of the finest lawyers and indeed, finest people in the city," said John Bates, who worked for Ruff in the US Attorney's Office here and later served as a deputy to Starr.

It was that reputation that Clinton reached out to in selecting Ruff to be his lawyer.

"He brings to the office just a deep well of credibility in this town," said Ruff's predecessor, Jack Quinn.

Asked whether he was worried about tarnishing his reputation as the job, Ruff said, "Sure. But you don't let that shape your way of doing business."

And Ruff's way of doing business goes back to his Watergate days. In the interview, Ruff became animated over an achievement from that time.

"One thing I think we did accomplish — and I do not mean this as any comment on the current situation," Ruff said, "was to do a great job of being a closed operation. If you ask your colleagues, they were really frustrated about not being able to get information out of the Watergate special prosecutor's office."

But Ruff — though he has played a behind-the-scenes role in various White House attacks on Starr — declined the temptation to compare their prosecutorial tenures.

"I appreciate your offering me the chance," he said. "I'll pass it by and leave it to others to judge."

(Washington Post)

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MEET ISRAELIS

Youngsters tune up for stardom

By HELEN KAYE

Like this," says 17-year-old Yoav Klein, and blows a long, mellow note on his bassoon.

Tympanist Nadav Rogel, also 17, takes the instrument, produces a pretty credible facsimile, and beams.

Not that he's going to play bassoon — drums and percussion are his thing — but "why not try? The bassoon's a beautiful instrument."

Little exchanges like that happen all over the campus, in a variety of disciplines, all during the two-and-a-half weeks of the Matan summer camp for the arts at Kibbutz Givat Haviva. It started July 13 and ends tomorrow, with a grand concert at which practically everybody performs for everybody else.

Matan is the Hebrew acronym for the Arts and Culture Project for Youth, an organization established in 1980, "to discover and develop talented youth all over the country," says Matan director Uri Strisover.

Yoav and Nadav met at camp two years ago. Both want to continue their musical studies, but like so many youngsters at the camp, aren't sure of the direction they'll take. Both play in the Symphony Ensemble, Matan's showcase group of 40 young musicians, one of the camp's six musical groups.

There are some 600 youngsters on the Givat Haviva campus. Along with music, the intensive classes encompass classical, modern and jazz dance, theater, the plastic arts, and — for the first time this year — creative writing. There is also a special circus arts program for a group of Ethiopian youngsters, some of whom had started learning juggling and acrobatics in Addis Ababa.

Rami Neipris has been the camp director for four years. Discipline, he says, is rarely a problem because the kids are very highly motivated. The camp population, he says, varies from year to year. This summer, dance is tops with 200 students, music has 180, theater 120, the fine arts 80 and writing, 40.

These young people are the cream, skimmed by audition, from some 2,000 youngsters who apply to Matan programs annually. (Other programs include smaller camps during the Pessah and Hanukka vacations.)

All applicants are recommended by their teachers or counselors at their local community centers; Matan has been part of the Association of Community Centers since 1994.

CHILAF Peled, 17, has been coming to Matan camps since he was



Some 600 youngsters attend the Matan summer camp for the arts at Kibbutz Givat Haviva.

12. Today he plays alto sax in the three-year-old jazz division. When he started, he played in the now-defunct wind ensemble.

He lives in Beersheba, which he describes as "pretty much of a musical desert then. I'd heard about the auditions, and I was sure I'd fail because Matan seemed — wow! — so inaccessible."

"I think I've improved about 200% since I started. I've learned self-discipline, which you need to create an orchestra. I've developed the ability to listen and attend, because without these, you can't create. I can't tell you how the camp has changed me, but it does. I go home a different person."

At 13, Silvan Shalev from Yehud is one of the younger campers. She's one of some 20 girls in a jazz dance class. She loves jazz dance, but her ambition is to be a classical ballet dancer. She studies classical ballet in Yehud and says, with jus-

tifiable pride, that she was the only one in her half of the Dan region to be accepted to the camp's dance program.

If looks are an aid to ambition, then Silvan is in good shape. She's tiny, thin, with a heart-shaped face and huge grey eyes, the very picture of a classical ballerina. Her parents, she says, will fly to London to find her a suitable ballet summer school.

Meanwhile the camp "gives me self-confidence and a new way of learning."

"The professional and artistic levels available to the children here are very hard to duplicate," says Neipris. "They are frequently of a much higher standard than they can get at home."

Additionally, the intensity of the instruction and the demands made on the children quickly shows them whether or not they have a future in the arts.

"An added bonus is that they're inundated by and opened up to new experiences in disciplines other than their own, and socially they quickly realize that they're not the only geniuses on the block."

The youngsters don't look like geniuses. Except for their leotards, their sketchpads, their video cameras (for the videodance project), and their instruments, they look like the teenagers they are — and make much the same amount of noise in the dining room.

The plaza outside the dining room is where there are open evenings a couple of times a week. It's camp policy for students to attend on-site concerts, dance concerts, plays and exhibitions by visiting artists as part of the curriculum, but the open evenings are a chance for the kids to do their own thing.

At the most recent one, Chifal and his jazz buddies whopped up a jam session that got everybody dancing.

ACROSS THE rolling lawn, under a shade-giving canopy that is no protection against the stifling heat, Adi Sha'al, one of the two founder dancers of Vertigo, is giving a class.

He and his students are having a ball. To ecstatic giggles, he demonstrates how one dancer can roll over another without the bottom dancer getting squashed.

Sha'al has been teaching at Matan for several years, but this year the whole company is serving as artists-in-residence at the camp and has performed for the students.

The company "has dancers who knew us as teachers in Matan. For me, the Matan concept is very important because it is a link between the students and the professional world."

Chilean conductor Francisco Rettig is his year's conductor-in-residence. Currently music director of the Bogota Philharmonic, Rettig came to the camp at the invitation of Matan music director Luis Gorelik, the founding director of the Ashdod Chamber Orchestra.

"They are at a very good level," Rettig says of the students he is leading through Beethoven's 5th Symphony, at a rehearsal for tomorrow's concert.

"They are very cooperative, interested and sensitive. Here I find a genuine joy of making music together which I don't

always find among professional musicians."

Zohar Ben-Sinon of Moshav Hatzeva in the Arava, near Eilat, is experiencing joy of a different kind. He's a paradigm Matan kid, talented, eager and from a culture-sparsely environment.

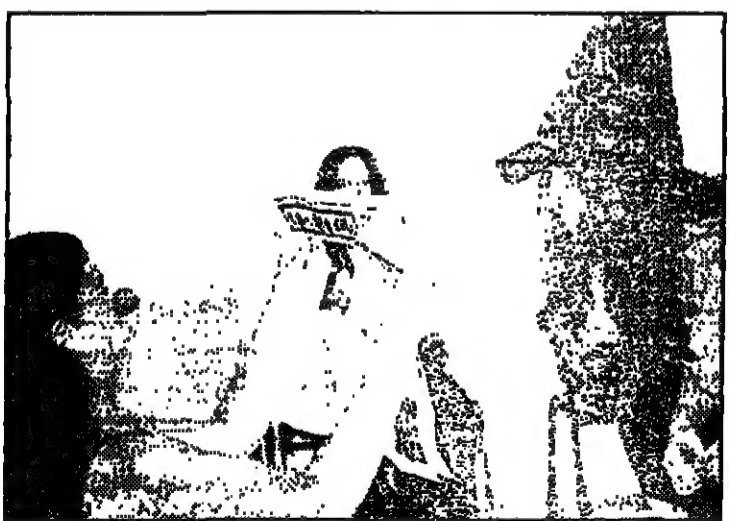
Strisover says Matan auditions are not biased, "but if we have a kid from some peripheral community whose score is the same as someone from the central region, we'll take that kid."

Zohar, at his first Matan camp, is in the theater program, where he has not only been exposed to different techniques but to a whole world of plays he never even knew existed.

He learned of Matan through his counselor at the Hatzeva Community Center and for the past year has been going to the Beersheba Theater once every two weeks as part of a Matan drama group.

"This has been my first real exposure to theater and I'm in shock," says the skinny, eager 17-year-old.

"Now, for the first time, I'm beginning to understand what is this thing, a play. It's a whole, extraordinary world and I'm changed, truly."



The world's a stage: Budding actresses learn about drama

A year-round arts incubator

The seed money for Matan, the Arts and Culture Project for Youth, came from Bob and Mary Anne Asher of Chicago. It is also supported by the Jerusalem Municipality and the Community Center Association.

Matan director Uri Strisover says the organization was created in 1980 to fulfill a need for a place where kids were not just learning, but also creating their own programs within the various disciplines.

The Matan camp is open to all Israeli youth. The entrance is free, but there is a small fee for the camp's meals and lodging. The camp is open from July 13 to August 1, and is held at Kibbutz Givat Haviva.

Camp director Uri Strisover says that some 60 percent of the youngsters are from outside the Jerusalem area. This year, 40% of the youngsters are from outside the Jerusalem area. This year, 40% of the youngsters are from outside the Jerusalem area.

Beersheba and Eilat. In addition to the camps during Pessah, Hanukka, and the summer, there is year-round activity, with the regions creating their own programs within the various disciplines.

Year-round, Matan teachers, some of the country's most eminent names, change every three years. Visiting teachers, usually for the camps, come on contract "provided we can afford them," says Strisover. "Foreign embassies usually help with teachers from abroad."

Matan's budget is NIS 5 million, 40% of which comes from Matan's institutional sponsors, 40% is earned income and 20% is donations. Matan at the summer camps is NIS 950 per week and NIS 2,600 for the full season. Kids who can't afford it get scholarships. This year NIS 50,000 was earmarked for the purpose. —H.K.

Golan & Globus reunite

By HELEN KAYE

After close to a decade during which they scarcely spoke, Menahem Golan and his erstwhile inseparable friend and partner Yoram Globus have teamed up again. Their new company, Magic Entertainment, is incorporated in New York but much of the activity is to take place here.

Never ones to hide their light under a bushel, Golan and Globus have two big projects scheduled for next month. On August 3, Golan starts rehearsals for his own stage musical version of *Beauty and the Beast*, scheduled to open on September 1.

Sassi Keshet, who played Captain von Trapp in Golan's hugely successful *The Sound of Music* (1995), will play the beast, and discover Rina Gabel will play the beauty. Belle, Golan, auditioned 300 unknowns to find his star, and prophesied a bright future for the young woman who has already sung twice for the pope in the Vatican.

"Always loyal to tried-and-true colleagues," Golan has enlisted Roni Weiss to write and arrange the music and Hifik Cohen to choreograph the dance routines, and he will direct.



Sassi Keshet and Rina Gabel

(Hifik Cohen)

Meanwhile, Hollywood action-flick director Joe Zito is here to scout locations for the first renaissance Golan/Globus movie *Delta Force One*, which will star Mike Norris. Chuck's son: Filming will start August 9.

Zito made several movies for Golan/Globus during the glory days of their earlier firm, Cannon, before it collapsed in the early Nineties.

Pianists head for Upper Galilee

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Leading Israeli and international pianists will join piano teachers and students in Upper Galilee for two hectic weeks of master classes this summer.

It is the seventh year of a program that started at Tel Hai Regional College and moved last summer to the Clor Music Center at Kfar Blum.

Marina Bondarenko, the general director of this venture, and Emanuel Krasovsky, the artistic director, have gathered nine distinguished pianists together this summer. Aside from Krasovsky, Israelis Yehli Wagman, Pinna Salzman, Michael Boguslavsky and Victor Dervianko will share the teaching honors with regulars Sontraud Spiedel from Germany and Israeli Yoheved Kaplinsky from the Juilliard School of Music. Jose Ribera from Spain and John O'Connor from Ireland will also join the teaching team this year.

But, the participating pianists get much more than individual classes, open masterclasses and recital opportunities over the program's two weeks.

From tomorrow to August 15 the students will attend lectures and concert-lectures, and take several trips around the country.

This year, the annual competition that was one of the major components of the program has been canceled. Organizers suggest that many youngsters believed that the competition cre-

ated extra tension in what is on the whole an intensive yet relaxing course.

The traditional awards will still be granted — three prizes totaling \$2,300 — according to teachers' impressions over the two-week course. The prizewinners will perform at the final gala concert on August 15 in Tel Aviv.

NEWS

of the muse

By HELEN KAYE

Shilon dynasty on Channel 1

The Shilons are set to become a broadcasting dynasty. Dan Shilon's wife, Miri, has been signed by Channel 1 to host a talk show (what else?) called *Shilon on 1*.

Hailed by Israel Broadcasting Authority head Uri Porat as "the sprout that ushers in the spring of Channel 1," the new show will have the typical Shilon composition.

There'll be five interviewees: a politician, an artist, a human-interest story, and two women "with extraordinary stories."

The idea "may have been Dan's," Shilon said at her press conference earlier this week, "but the execution, the format and the methods of interviewing are all mine."

She has worked in the media for 20 years as an editor and in production, but this is her debut in front of a camera.

Her husband *Dan Shilon Live* on Channel 2 is consistently among the top 10 TV programs. *Shilon on 1* will premiere in September and will air Sunday nights at 9:30.

Banai dynasty at arts & crafts fair

Hutzot Hayotzer, the arts-and-crafts fair at Sultan's Pool in Jerusalem, is an annual event that provides hours of fun. Visitors go from booth to booth admiring (and buying) arts, crafts, apparel, food and more from scores of countries.

This year's fair is from August 4-15, and in addition to some 150 booths, there'll be top-flight entertainment almost every night in honor of the jubilee year.

The lineup includes David Deor, Yuval, Ehud and Eviatar Banai (separately), Yirmi Kaplan and The Flowers, David Broza, a salute by the world choirs of the Zimriya, Corinne Allal, Micha Shetreet and Ivri Lidor.

All you need is love

Who needs Valentine's Day? The Hebrew calendar has its own love fest. On August 6 and 7 Israel's creative women singer-songwriters celebrate Tu Be'av with *Intima Next* at the Simta Theater in Old Jaffa. The two-day festival presents 11 performances featuring new and familiar material from the likes of Ronit Shahar, Corinne Allal, Dana Berger, Yael Levi, Rinat Gabai, Lilach Eyn-Habar, Orli Peri and Idit Eshel.

Tickets to what promises to be an unusual event are NIS 25 to NIS 45.

Placating Japanese gods



The originally scheduled five shows by the Ondekoza (demon) drummers of Japan has already been increased to nine. They will play at five venues country-wide starting September 12 at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv and ending September 19 at the Roman Theater in Caesarea.

Founded in 1969 by Tagayasu Den, who still leads the company, Ondekoza comprises an ensemble of bamboo flutes, stringed instruments and drums ranging from nine to 318kg.

The music is based on Japanese folk tunes, and traditional festival drum routines whose purpose is to placate and please the spirits and gods which are part of the fabric of Japanese culture and tradition. Ondekoza musicians live communally and both physical and mental training are part of their daily routine.

Subscription offer for Herzliya orchestra

Going into its 18th season, the Herzliya Chamber Orchestra offers an intriguing program of classical and contemporary music ranging from Mozart to Copland and from Bach to Avni.

HCO founder and music director Harvey Bordowitz always tries to include works by lesser-known composers, or lesser-known works by well-known composers, in his line-up, such as a trumpet concerto by Neruda.

The HCO also sponsors a competition for soloists and then showcases the winner in one of the season's concerts. Bordowitz enlivens performances with a pre-concert lecture which enhances the audience's understanding.

Concerts are held at Ya'ari, in Moshav Bitan Aharon near Netanya. Subscriptions are NIS 495, but subscribers renewing by July 31 can get a double subscription for NIS 645.

Levy-Agron competition winners

Eynat Zuta, a graduate of the Jerusalem Rubin Academy of Music and Dance, won the \$1,000 first prize in the first Hassia Levy-Agron choreographers' competition which took place at the academy earlier this month. Zuta won with *Pictures in Time*.

Second prize winner (\$600) was Keren Levy for *Cold* and the \$400 third prize went to another academy graduate, Liat Zituni, for *Rosita de Marmelada*.

Choreographer and Israel Prize laureate Moshe Efrati, who danced with Levy-Agron when both worked with Martha Graham in New York, donated the first prize, and organized the competition as a tribute to Levy-Agron, who won the Israel Prize this year for her contribution to dance.

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Shifting sands

In the Knesset today, the coalition and opposition were expected to fight like gladiators. Even though the prize was more of a symbolic victory than a matter of political life or death.

The coalition's last-minute decision to boycott today's preliminary vote on dissolving the Knesset and holding new elections will not dissipate the cloud of instability, created by the government's inability to muster a majority in its own defense. The government's loss could well snowball later on, and could further dent Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's badly battered international standing.

In the meantime, the Knesset forfeit has diverted attention from an important new dilemma regarding the composition - rather than the size - of the expected redeployment.

The latest wrinkle in the negotiations is a reported offer by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai in his talks with Mahmoud Abbas to designate three percent of the territory as a "nature reserve," in which neither Israel nor the Palestinians would build.

While initially the proposed reserve was thought to consist of those areas that surrounded certain settlements. Mordechai's new idea is reportedly that the reserve would be a contiguous portion of the Judean Desert.

If the government did, in fact, propose handing over even symbolic control of portions of the Judean Desert, it would be a remarkable concession on Israel's part.

Until now, the entire Jordan Valley and Judean Desert has been sacrosanct. Both Labor and Likud governments have regarded the eastern desert, which is largely devoid of Arab population, to be Israel's security buffer. In addition, The Third Way sees the empty desert as a reservoir for potential Israeli settlement.

The Third Way's triple final-status objective is to retain control of settlement blocs in which 93 percent of the settlers live; provide the Palestinians control over a contiguous area; and retain as much empty territory as possible for security and future settlements. Settle leaders like Aharon Domb, director of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, argue it is fruitless to try to retain empty territory. They would rather fight for every settlement, even if it makes the future Palestinian entity look like Swiss cheese.

The effect of the reported proposal is to pit the settler movement and its NRP allies against The Third Way's ideology of maximizing control

over land, not necessarily settlements. In this debate, The Third Way's position is more compatible both with Israel's long-term interests and with the peace process.

As Third Way MK Alex Lubotzky argues, there is "no chance" that Israel will retain control of the areas where Arab villages are densely concentrated, such as between Nablus and Jenin.

But in the Jerusalem area, Gush Etzion, along the Green Line, and along the Trans-Samaria and Allon roads, the concentration of Israeli settlements and the sparseness of Palestinian population is such that both sides expect Israel to retain control of these areas in a final-status agreement. If Palestinians insist on controlling every Arab village and Israelis every Jewish settlement, a peace agreement will be impossible to achieve.

If Israel were to try and retain every existing settlement in a final-status deal, it would have to pay in other areas, most likely including the handover of empty territory. In this situation, there is a clear trade-off between isolated settlements and barren land.

It is understandable that the settler leadership finds it hard to choose empty territory, mostly harsh desert, over existing settlements. But the irony here is that a movement that has dedicated so much toil and sacrifice to maximizing Jewish control over the historic land of Israel, is now taking a stance that could cost that objective dearly when it counts most - in final-status talks.

From a national perspective, it makes no sense for Netanyahu to make concessions on territory that remains within the national consensus before final-status talks have even begun. The Allon Plan, which epitomized the Labor approach to the final disposition of the territories, was built upon retaining the empty eastern desert, while withdrawing from the Arab populated areas. Between 1968 and 1977, Labor governments established over 30 settlements, essentially in accordance with the Allon Plan.

Though The Third Way is thought to have broken away from Labor mainly over the issue of the Golan Heights, its platform also scores Labor for "abandoning" the Allon Plan and its vision of territorial compromise.

It is a strange twist of fate that Allon's concept, which the Likud always considered minimalist, would now have to be defended by The Third Way against concessions offered the Palestinians by Benjamin Netanyahu.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DEAR RUTHIE'S WRONG

Sir, - Although advice offered for problems described in a letter is highly questionable, nevertheless the advice given by "Dear Ruthie" generally demonstrates a correct understanding of the human condition. However, I beg to differ with her advice given to "Moaning Mom" (July 21).

Answering a question as to how to deal with the vacation aimlessness of her children, Ruthie Blum

is critical of Mom's attempts to occupy her children fruitfully, putting the "blame on Mom" for becoming irritated by her children's behavior.

Actually, Mom's plan of setting house-keeping tasks for her children, with rewards, was a good one except that its purpose was only to preoccupy her children, rather than to teach them to help with chores. The plan would have been effective if she

gave rewards not only for doing the chores, but also for doing them according to her specifications.

Furthermore, instead of focusing on the children, Blum suggests that Mom work a little harder on herself to avoid being irritable with her children.

DR. CARL LAMPNER

Jerusalem.

RABBI'S ROLE

Sir, - Gerald Steinberg's objection in "Take rabbis out of politics" (July 3), to the new role of rabbinic authority in public policy is 100 percent valid, so long as he excludes politicians who happen to be rabbis as well.

Let it be noted however that the only prime minister to appoint to his government a rabbi whose sole qualification was his rabbinic authority, was Shimon Peres who had Rabbi Amital as a minister without either portfolio or function.

Be that as it may, there are two areas where rabbinic involvement is warranted. Before the Knesset or the government departments make decisions on questions such as transplants, executions, abortions, treatment of the terminally ill and other matters of life-and-death ethics, I would hope that rabbinic authorities would be taken into account. At least as much as "what the rest of the world is doing these days."

And as far as Steinberg's wish to

exclude rabbinic authorities from the conversion issue (and eventually patrilineage as well), I would love to agree with him.

This halachic question should not be part of the general public debate to begin with. However once the courts have decided that it is, the rabbinate can hardly be denied the right to defend itself.

ISRAEL PICKHOLTZ

Elazar, Gush Etzion.

SCHIZOPHRENIC BEHAVIOR

Sir, - The schizophrenic behavior of the Israel Ba'al'yah party can be of no comfort to its electorate.

Their proposal of a bill to facilitate mixed marriages in a land where children of those marriages will not be able to take their place among the Jewish people, is in direct contrast to their opposition to conversion reform, the freeing of non kosher meat imports and enlistment for all.

Israel Ba'al'yah (bending over backwards to keep their seats) attempts to placate the religious establishment, which puts obsta-

cles in the way of immigrants from the former Soviet Union and would limit those very freedoms for which they fought in the USSR, especially freedom of choice.

Their leader Natan Sharansky, was arrested in Moscow for his activities in the Human Rights Committee. He would do well to think about the human and civil rights issues facing us now, both within and without our land.

ZELDA HARRIS

Netanya.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

50 years ago: On July 29, 1948, The Palestine Post reported on Arab violations of the cease-fire and the Egyptian attacks in the Negev. An Israeli soldier was killed by a sniper in Jerusalem. The four-day experiment of providing an uninterrupted electric current supply was tested in

Jerusalem. The city got more food and reconstruction started in the damaged Ben-Yehuda street.

25 years ago: On July 29, 1973, The Jerusalem Post reported that "it would be very serious" for Norwegian-Israeli relations if it were proven that members of the

group arrested after the killing of a suspected Black September terrorist, Ahmed Bouschiki, a Moroccan who was shot dead outside of his home in Lillehammer, had cooperated with Israeli officials.

Alexander Zvielli

"Sorry, we just gave away our last 20 million..."



Jerusalem agenda

MOSHE ZAK

The Conference of Islamic Foreign Ministers, which meets today in Casablanca under the presidency of Morocco's King Hassan II, will not be discussing the 13% withdrawal from Judea and Samaria or Iran's 1,300 kilometer range long-range missiles. It has been called to discuss the question of Jerusalem and should be viewed by us as an integral part of an offensive on all fronts which the Arabs have launched against Israel.

Nothing untoward has occurred in Jerusalem which necessitates such urgent Islamic action. Construction has not begun at Har Homa, while the plan for expanding Jerusalem's area of jurisdiction was abandoned almost immediately after its proposal, and not because of Arab objections, but because of the outcry of the Jewish satellite towns surrounding the city.

There was no particular reason for the recent UN Security Council debate on Jerusalem, and there is no reason now to hold an urgent meeting of the Jerusalem Conference, headed by the king of Morocco.

Yasser Arafat, however, knows that there is nothing better to ignite the Arab and Moslem world than the issue of Jerusalem. Fantasies about Jerusalem and tales of the activities of the city's "heretics" are the fuel used to incite millions of Moslems against Israel.

Arafat was not satisfied with the statement issued by the officiating chairman of the UN Security Council that called for Israel not to expand Jerusalem's boundaries. In the midst of this week's critical discussions with Israel, Arafat flew to Casablanca for the Jerusalem Conference, with the intention of inciting the Moslem world against us and in an effort to demonstrate to the Americans the extent of the fire which is likely to spread over the area if the US continues to assist Israel.

The PA leader is attempting to scare the American Senate away

from following the example of the House of Representatives, which forced the State Department and American Consulate in Jerusalem to head official documents with the words: "Jerusalem, Israel." However, this is a secondary target. The primary target is far-reaching - to force us to be permanently on the defensive in the face of Arab initiatives.

In the euphoria which has gripped so many people in the aftermath of Oslo, we naively

Today's Casablanca conference proves that the hope the Palestinians would not raise the issue of Jerusalem was a mere illusion

believed that we had been given a "time out" in the debate with the Palestinians on the complex issue of Jerusalem.

This was a short-lived illusion and it was not long before Arafat upset the order of things and pushed the question of Jerusalem to the forefront. But these illusions had already given rise to Israeli proposals to stop interfering in activities at the Orient House and not to build at Har Homa. Other proposals included not opening the Western Wall Tunnel and not to prevent the Palestinians from changing the status quo on the Temple Mount, so as not to awaken the issue of Jerusalem from its slumber before the time was ripe.

In retrospect, it is now abundantly clear that the Palestinians did not share this desire to keep Jerusalem on the back burner. They set up a

ministry for Jerusalem affairs, sent their secret service to operate inside Jerusalem under the noses of the Israeli authorities and drew us into debates in the UN on affairs relating to Jerusalem.

The Palestinians are not willing to wait until the permanent settlement with Israel is discussed but are demanding that freedom of movement for Palestinians in Jerusalem be settled now. They are relentless on the subject of Jerusalem and are fully aware that this is Israel's Achilles heel.

The illusion of a political lull between ourselves and the Palestinians regarding Jerusalem has reached an end. At Arafat's exhortation, the Islamic Conference on Jerusalem is planning its next steps.

In Israel's early years, our main concern was the Christian world, which rallied to have its resolution at the UN on the internationalization of Jerusalem approved. We did not pay sufficient attention to Moslem sensitivity on Jerusalem. Pressure brought to bear by the Christian world resulted in a strategic partnership between Israel and Jordan. This partnership gave preference to the division of Jerusalem between the two countries over the solution of internationalizing the entire city.

Now another conceptual mistake has been exposed: Israel believed that the Palestinians were intent on promoting the interim agreement with Israel and would therefore freeze the debate over Jerusalem, leaving it to the final stages of the peace process, once the terms of the permanent settlement had been agreed. This did not happen.

The Palestinians have made Jerusalem the spearhead of their political conflict with Israel. By pressuring Israel on the subject of Jerusalem, Arafat seeks to bully us into performing the second withdrawal, and to ensure that in nine months time the Palestinian state will be born.

Change the tune

DAVID NEWMAN

land, as compared with the dangers and evils awaiting those who remain in the Diaspora.

Despite the major changes which Israeli society has experienced in the past 20 years, the message for these youth groups

It's time to see Israel as it really is, rather than focusing solely on past stories of heroism and tragedy

remains the same. The struggle for independence is relived, while the security threat remains a constant theme. The real problems facing contemporary Israel are brushed aside - there are no internal Sephardi-Ashkenazi rifts, no problems between religious and secular, there is no occupation of the West Bank and a disintegrating peace process - these tours are the last bastion of the Zionist information enterprise.

INTENSIVE tours of this nature are pressure-cookers for socialization. They tend to bypass the daily lives of most Israelis. The groups live in their own detached world of tourist and religious sites, meeting each other at symposiums and ideological seminars. They are as unaware of five million other Israelis going on with their daily lives around them, as Israelis are unaware of the existence of these groups - unless you just happen to meet up with one of them at Yad Vashem, the Western Wall or a pizza joint in Jerusalem.

It is not only Diaspora youth who are affected by these intensive forms of ideological socialization. Take the tours of Eastern Europe and the concentration

camps which have now become common for Israeli children. Without doubt, these are powerful trips and the participants are usually prepared well in advance. But in addition to the educational experience, the trips have become a sort of last-resort attempt by a failed educational system to instill a sense of Israeli identity and pride in Israeli youth.

Having, for the most part, failed to explain to cynical Israeli teenagers what Israel is all about and why they should want to be part of this continuing process of state-building, the opening up of Eastern Europe has presented a new option.

Show the kids how weak the Jewish people were, what happened to them at the hands of the Other. If nothing else, impress upon them that Israel is a lowest common denominator for some form of artificial national unity. Fifty years into statehood and it is the same old message. It is not about how to build and interact in a heterogeneous society. It is not about how to overcome cultural and religious gaps as we strive for the same type of egalitarianism and equality that many of these youngsters enjoy in their home societies. No, it is still about being threatened and weak, the dangers of living in a world where everyone hates us.

Is this the only message we should be sending to the teenagers of the new millennium? Is this going to persuade them to eventually leave their homes and join us permanently? Perhaps a more realistic outlook on Israeli life, including an attempt to come to grips with the very real problems facing this society, Jewish and Arab, religious and secular, would in this globalized satellite world where everyone knows what is taking place everywhere - stand a better chance of succeeding. Time to change the tune. Time to see Israel as it really is rather than focusing solely on past stories of heroism and tragedy.

Make a list

NICOLAUS MILLS

In high school, a friend and I used to play a game we called "Fictional All-Star Baseball." We'd pick all-star teams of novelists, choosing writers not only for the quality of their work (often only a short story) but for how we imagined they would play a particular position.

It was easy to agree on catchers. We both wanted the steady, fatherly Leo Tolstoy behind the plate. He seemed the perfect literary anchor. But the rest of the team was up for grabs. In center field, where speed mattered, did you choose a wordsmith like Henry James over the stylish Gustave Flaubert?

At pitcher did you start a versatile bilingualist like Joseph Conrad over a subtle trickster like Anton Chekhov? And what about our cases? It was impossible to ignore the greatness of Fyodor Dostoyevski, but he seemed sure to spoil team chemistry.

I thought of my high school game when I saw the list of the 100 best English-language novels of the 20th century that the editorial board of the Modern Library recently published.

Following so closely on the heels of the American Film Institute's 100 best movies, I suggested the start of a trend. We have already accustomed ourselves to US News and World Report's annual lists of the best colleges and hospitals, and without even thinking about it, we regularly buy booklets of the best restaurants. Listmania is here.

It is not too much to imagine that in the near future we will be getting lists of the 100 best paintings or the 100 best buildings and finally the mother of all lists - the list of the 100 greatest lists of all time.

Like most people, I enjoy reading lists. When the American Film Institute published its 100 best, I thought they had short-changed Buster Keaton, and I liked quarreling with the Modern Library list as well. How, I won-

Lists may be arbitrary, elitist, rigid. But they are clear

dered, could F. Scott Fitzgerald do so much better than William Faulkner? How could Ralph Ellison be rated ahead of E.M. Forster?

It's fun to argue with experts. Among my friends, I expect that the Modern Library list will be a dinner-table topic just as the film tabulation was.

WHAT lies behind this new listmania is a different, and more serious question, however. At the most obvious level the lists are a marketing tool. The American Film Institute gets great publicity from its tabulation, and it is possible, as Turner Network Television has to do television programs based on film clips from the AFI list.

The same goes for Random House, which owns Modern Library. Its list has generated the kind of media coverage money can't buy, and it is sure to help with sales of the Modern Library books Random House reissues.

But something else is also at work without new listmania. The lists fit into our current celebrity culture. They turn books and films into stars - rather than unique and idiosyncratic works of art. Also, those of us who have read or seen a book or film on a 100-best list acquire the right to pass ourselves off as connoisseurs.

As the books and films on a list acquire new status, so do those of us with knowledge of them. Even more important, the lists address the uncertainty we have about current cultural standards. These days we are overwhelmed with information and unsure about how to judge it.

Gone are the days when everyone knew what a classic was, when everyone could tell decent from indecent. We have become a heterogeneous society whose members have less and less in common.

Lists give us a break from such ambiguity. They may be arbitrary, elitist, rigid. But they are clear. Here, they say, is the best book, the best film, the best hospital you can find. Take a list to heart, and you don't have to worry any longer about ranking.

Talk-show host David Letterman, whose goofy top 10 lists are invariably a way of parodying the day's news, has understood the therapeutic effects of lists for years. Now that listmania is upon us, we should, too.

(Newsday)

Corner



By Batsheva Mink

The summer holiday raises the age-old question of what to do with the children during the school break. Gardening is one good answer with advantages for busy parents who want more time with their children.

Most children today live in urban areas and have little contact with plant life outside visits to the park or botanical gardens, or driving through the countryside.

They have no idea where the food in the supermarket comes from. How many children know how to recognize a living tomato plant after having eaten hundreds of tomatoes through the years? Not one plant in the garden resembles what we serve for dinner.

Gardens are full of wonders and children are by definition curious. So why not bring the two together? Children watching their parents garden will want to do it too. Adults work in the garden to achieve a certain order, a design of plants. The effort is directed to making the garden beautiful.

For the children, it provides an experience of doing things and seeing quick results.

Looking back to my own childhood in the East End of London, we never had a garden. In fact, I never knew anyone who had one. My own interest in plants began when my mother bought me a red geranium in a clay pot from a market stall. I was fascinated how this plant kept flowering all summer with just a little water. Just as winter arrived, she would place the geranium in the bottom of a cupboard and forget about it until springtime, and then the whole cycle would start over. The plant was retrieved from the cupboard and I began watering it. Within a few weeks, it was putting out new leaves and flowers. The fascination was indescribable. Humble beginnings.

Any adult who spends time in the garden can find himself drawn back to his own childhood. There are many wonders and new things to be discovered. It is delightful to see the look of excitement on a child's face when he discovers the seeds he put in the ground are turning into a sunflower, radish or carrot. We can all become kids again.



Children question what we simply accept. Why are you pulling up that plant when it took so long to grow? How do seeds grow and know what to grow into and why do plants die? You have to teach them to tell the difference between weeds and more desirable plants. Although it is never too late to get a child started in gardening, the earlier the better. Even four-year-olds can hold tools, imitate what you do and follow simple directions. Generally, the hardest part of gardening for children is the patience it requires. If the plants take too long to mature you can end up with frustration and a complete lack of interest.

My own children were introduced to gardening at an early age. We grew tomato plants from seeds. Unfortunately they did not grow fast enough. The kids lost interest very quickly. Not to be beaten, I decided to get up early one morning and take out a few lovely red tomatoes, which I tied to the vine with invisible cotton. I can still see the excitement when they discovered them, and they have been hooked on gardening ever since.

For starters, it's best to use quick-germinating vegetables. Radishes

germinate quickly and are ready to harvest after 28 to 30 days. Children prefer brightly colored vegetables like tomatoes, strawberries and carrots. Most prefer vegetable gardening to begin with. While you can share your own garden, you both will probably be happier if the child has a patch to call his or her own. In the beginning, it is best to limit the work sessions to 10 or 15 minutes, trying to do as many jobs as possible to keep interest going. Short, varied jobs hold the child's interest. Keep the patch small so it will be easier to finish most jobs that have been started. Adults often love the solitude of gardening but kids more often want company. So why not invite their friends to help out?

One word of advice is never to think of the children as free labor or give them a task beyond their

ability or level of patience. Instead of interesting them, we are more likely to give them a lifelong aversion to gardening.

If your child is very young, it is best to buy bulbs. Young children do not always have a sense of space. They do not realize a small sunflower seed is capable of growing into a plant of three meters. Annuals' seeds are amiable and put no strain on the pocket. They are colorful and fast-growing. Annuals like sunflower, zinnia, marigold, cosmos, petunia and morning glories are all ideal for beginners. If you have no space to garden, it is possible to raise a few seedlings on a window ledge.

Batsheva Mink is curator of the Jerusalem Botanical Gardens, Hebrew University, Givat Ram.

TIP OF THE WEEK

Quite a few fruit pits and stones can be planted to produce interesting small trees at no cost. The following is a list of pits that can be grown in pots: date stone, lemon, avocado, orange, tangerine, apricot and plum. Another piece of fruit, which can yield a nice plant, is a pineapple. Cut off its top, place it into a very shallow saucer of water. Top it up when needed. When it produces roots, it can be potted up in clean potting mix and placed in a warm, sheltered position.



Look what the cat dragged in

Heads 'N' Tails



By D'vora Ben Shaul

A reader has written in about her two-year-old spayed female cat who, despite a steady and adequate diet of meat, fish and chicken, hunts birds – and everything else – whenever she is outside.

The cat's owners have tried everything from feeding her just before she goes out to a bell to warn the birds. But, but no matter what they do, they are faced daily with mangled songbirds that the cat doesn't usually even eat. The situation is so bad that they have removed the bird bath.

The cat also seems to hunt just about everything that crawls, walks or flutters and brings a daily supply of mice, shrews, mole crickets, toads, lizards and even moles in from the garden. The owner is happy that the cat has not brought her a snake yet!

She wanted to know how one can discourage this rampant hunting.

This is a real problem and I am afraid that I have no answer to it. Recent genetic studies have confirmed what many zoologists have long suspected – that the hunting instinct in cats is a completely inherited characteristic and a cat with strong hunting instincts cannot be taught to desist.

The hunting has nothing to do with hunger and people who starve their cats to make them catch mice are simply wasting their energy and causing their cat a lot of suffering. Either a cat is going to hunt or it is not and I'm afraid there's not much you can do about it.

A good hunter will hunt all of the things mentioned above and then some.

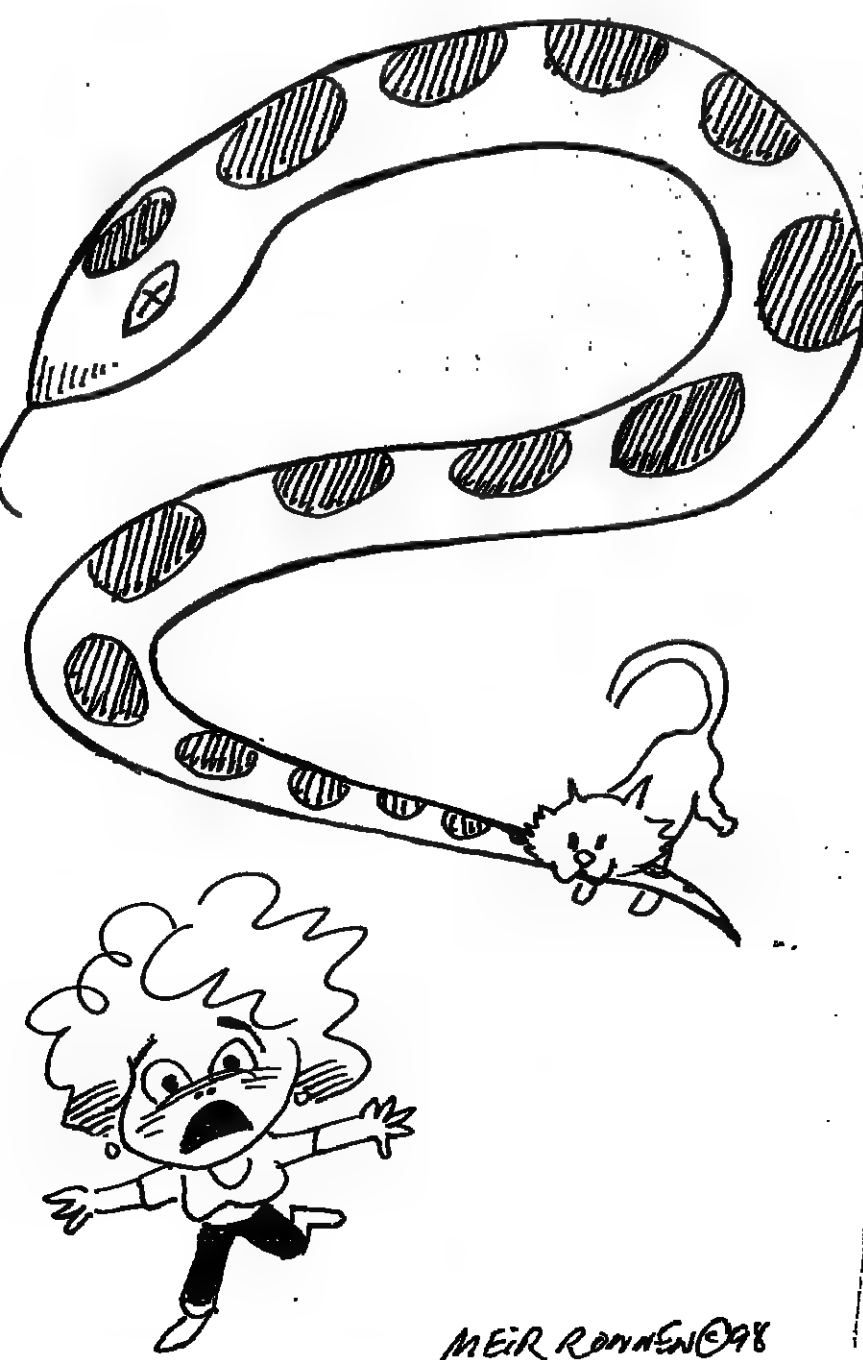
Incidentally, we have no moles in Israel. Moles are insect eaters

and live in Europe and America. We have mole rats that pretty much fill the same ecological niche, burrowing underground and casting up hills of earth. But they are eaters of roots and bulbs only.

You may find that you have the wrong cat for your lifestyle. Perhaps you need an indoor cat, or one devoid of hunting characteristics.

The hunting cat would be a great

asset to anyone who specifically wanted a good mouser and rather, I know this advice isn't worth a lot to our reader but there are some things in nature that we simply cannot control.



MEIR ROYENBERG

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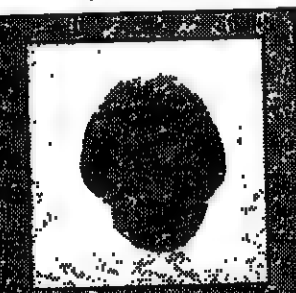
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THE BUSINESS SCENE

By GREER FAY CASHMAN



Ways of Wall Street



By JAMES K. GLASSMAN

The most common disaster scenarios for the New York stock market go like this: First, share prices start to fall after the Federal Reserve raises interest rates, or a report suddenly indicates inflation is back, or a big German bank fails, or Microsoft Corp. shows a loss for the quarter or... well, you name it.

Then, as stocks keep dropping over three or four weeks, shareholders in mutual funds - most of whom have never seen this sort of thing before - decide to head for the exits. They start redeeming their shares - asking fund companies to turn them into cash, which will go into certificate of deposits or under the mattress.

In order to raise cash to redeem shares, the funds have to sell - their cash reserves are low - and the crescendo gets deafening. When the dust clears, the Dow Jones industrial average is down, oh, about 5,000 points.

A critical element in this scenario is the behavior of mutual-fund shareholders. If they sit tight - or buy at the cheaper prices - then the stampede won't occur, and the market will merely suffer a correction of 10 percent or so. But if they panic, it will be a bloody mess.

So will investors cut and run? A new study by the Investment Company Institute (ICI) indicates they won't. It is reasonable to view the research skeptically because the ICI is the trade association for the mutual-fund industry, and it might be seen as having a vested interest in promoting calm. Still, the ICI's numbers are sound.

But will the conclusions of a study, which looked at only a small mutual-fund sector, apply in a widespread market decline? There is certainly some doubt, which raises another question: Is there any shelter from a rolling debacle? We'll get to the answers below, but first let's look at the study.

Mitchell A. Post and Kimberlee

When he's not dishing out burgers at his Burger Ranch franchise, former basketball champ Aulcie Perry (left) is coaching would-be hoopers at Wingate Summer School. Current basketball celebrity Oded Katash (right) stopped by to shoot a few baskets and pose for photos with some of his fans. The summer camp, which is also attended by children from abroad, is co-sponsored by Burger Ranch, Reebok and Coca Cola.

Michael Arbel, 53, is the new director-general of Educational Television. Arbel, who previously headed ETV's production department, won her new post after responding to the Civil Service Commission's call for tenders for the position. A Bar-Ilan University humanities graduate, Arbel replaces Ruhama Katzir, who heads the Education Ministry's Central District, and who took the job on a temporary basis until a permanent appointment could be made.

Husband and wife hotel management team Amnon and Etti (Segev) Kriczewski are playing musical chairs within the Atlas chain's facilities. She has just been appointed general manager of the Tel Aviv City Hotel, previously managed by her husband. Both are Tadmor Hotel School graduates. He has moved on to manage the Atlas chain's Tel Hotel in Tel Aviv. Previously, she was functions manager and also responsible for food and beverages at the Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv.

Michael Aronson, 45, has been appointed general manager of

Regba Kitchens.

Moving from milk to vegetables, Alma Cohen Shahar, 33, has taken over as marketing manager at Sunfrost. She previously headed the Emmei Yogurt division at Tnuva. Her appointment is within the framework of Sunfrost's reorganization strategy.

Tax Commissioner Doron Levy recently discussed taxation policy and the impending taxation reforms to be implemented by the Treasury with senior executives of the Israel Manufacturers Association.

Ezra Ram has been named Lannet's technical manager for Asia, the Middle East and Africa. An engineer by profession, Ram has amassed a great deal of experience and expertise in communications technology and planning communications networks for international clientele. His appointment is in line with Lannet's global expansion policy.

Lilach Sandlon has been appointed research executive at the Institute for Marketing Data. Sandlon, 27, is currently completing a master's degree in public polling at Tel Aviv University.

New appointments in the Holiday Inn hotel chain include Itzik Evron, who has been named general manager of the soon-to-be-opened Holiday Inn, Ashkelon; Ilan Levy as deputy manager of the Crown Plaza, the Dead Sea; and Lubna Mizrahi as head of sales promotion to the Russian market.

Fund holders: Don't panic

If falling stock prices send mutual-fund shareholders rushing for the exits en masse, the Dow Jones industrial average could plummet as much as 5,000 points



Millar of the ICI wanted to find out how investors reacted to the steep decline in the prices of emerging markets mutual funds. Asian markets fell 23% between last July and September, and another 31% between October and December.

Emerging markets overall fell 9%, and then 20% in the two periods. But the researchers found "shareholders in US emerging market funds reacted calmly." They started withdrawing small amounts in late 1997. "After the crisis started in early 1997, shareholders stepped up somewhat the pace of withdrawals, which continued for the remainder of the year... However, outflows from funds that invest primarily in Asia and Latin America were small relative to the magnitude of the drops in prices of shares during the crisis."

Outflows of cash from general emerging-markets funds peaked at 2.5% of assets in December 1997. The peak for Asian funds was 4.8% in July, and for Latin American funds, 4.1% in October - "despite," write the authors, "a price decline of almost 19%."

Figures provided to me by Robert Adler, president of AMG Data Services in Arcata, Calif., appear to confirm the ICI's conclusions.

Investors started pulling out of emerging markets funds in March and April and then again in July

through the end of 1997, the AMG numbers show, but the retreat was orderly compared with the devastation to the prices of the Asian and Latin stocks.

These findings - that fund holders don't panic - back up two earlier ICI studies. In 1995, researchers looked at redemptions at bond funds during the spring of 1994, when interest rates jumped and bond prices fell sharply.

But, again, investors did not panic. Outflows for bond funds in the worst months - March and April 1994 - were 3.2%. Liquid assets (that is, cash) at the bond funds were "sufficient to meet the outflows without requiring liquidation of long-term securities," wrote the study's authors.

The researchers also looked at the effects of the Orange County bankruptcy of December 1994 on shareholders in California tax-exempt bond and money-market funds, of the December 1994 peso devaluation on emerging-markets fund shareholders, and of 1994 derivatives losses on money-market fund shareholders.

"Although the effects of the events in 1994 were clearly evident in shareholder investment activity, none produced a bank-like run on mutual funds," concluded the authors. In other words, investors did indeed sell when these catastrophes occurred; on balance, they did not have the courage to buy with both fists. But they did not run scared, causing

the snowball effect that analysts will fear.

The third, much broader study, in 1995, examined market downturns over a 50-year period starting in 1944. The conclusion: "In none of the stock-market breaks and sharp declines in equity prices have stock fund owners liquidated shares en masse."

What about the Oct. 29, 1987, crash, when the Dow dropped 23% in a single day?

That break, too, "failed to trigger substantial outflows from stock funds," wrote John Rea and Richard Marcis. "An estimated 4.5% of stock fund assets were redeemed over the last half of October, and the outflow moderated substantially thereafter. Moreover, only 5 percent of stock fund owners liquidated shares in the six weeks after the break." Still, it is disconcerting that the clear pattern among investors is to sell when fund prices fall and buy when they rise. But that behavior might be changing through experience and education.

"Most of the evidence of recent years," said Alan Greenspan, the Fed chairman, in testimony before a House committee last week, "is that people who have built up 401(k)'s and other forms of investment and have become quite familiar with the stock market have been the ones who have been buying on the declines and indeed have turned out to be prescient and wealthier."

But it remains an open question whether fund shareholders will panic in a truly miserable bear market. We really haven't had one since the advent of the modern mutual fund. Since 1926, roughly one out of every four years has seen a decline in the stock market, but since 1977 we have had only two losers - 1981, where returns were -4.9%, and 1990, when they were -3.2%.

The last painful bear market was in 1973-74, when large-cap stocks fell more than 40%. Only 17% of current shareholders bought their first fund before 1980, and one-third bought their first fund in the 1990s.

Is there shelter against a meltdown such as I have described? I would not be entirely sanguine about the ability of fund managers to meet redemptions with the cash they have on hand. Some fund houses, including Fidelity Investments, have arranged for bank lines of credit to pay shareholders, but it is likely that in a meltdown, hundreds of managers will be rushing to liquidate their holdings, selling General Electric Co. and Intel Corp. for whatever they get.

A safe harbor? One possibility is to invest in closed-end equity funds, which trade just as if they were stocks. With closed-ends, there are no redemptions. If you want to sell, you find a buyer through the New York Stock Exchange rather than going to the fund to get your money back. This means closed-end managers don't have to raise cash in a debacle; instead, if they have the guts, they can spend their money buying shares at bargain prices.

A recent analysis by Morgan Stanley Dean Witter gave "strong buy" ratings to four domestic closed-ends: General American Investors, with a three-year average annual return of 33.5%, compared with 31.1% for the Standard & Poor's 500-stock index; Salmon Brothers Fund, with a three-year return of 33.8% but higher risk; Petroleum and Resources Corp., an energy fund with a superb track record; and John Hancock Bank and Thrift Opportunity, which is down 18% this year but gained 101% in 1997.

All four of these funds trade at discounts to their net asset value, or what all the stocks in their portfolios would be worth if they were cashed in at market prices. So, in theory at least, they are bargains. (Washington Post)

MUTUAL FUNDS

Fund's name	unit cost	redemption price	monthly yield (%)	yield (%)	1998 (%)	1997 (%)	1996 (%)	1995 (%)	1994 (%)	1993 (%)	1992 (%)	1991 (%)	1990 (%)	1989 (%)	1988 (%)	1987 (%)	1986 (%)	1985 (%)	1984 (%)	1983 (%)	1982 (%)	1981 (%)	1980 (%)	1979 (%)	1978 (%)	1977 (%)	1976 (%)	1975 (%)	1974 (%)	1973 (%)	1972 (%)	1971 (%)	1970 (%)	1969 (%)	1968 (%)	1967 (%)	1966 (%)	1965 (%)	1964 (%)	1963 (%)	1962 (%)	1961 (%)	1960 (%)	1959 (%)	1958 (%)	1957 (%)	1956 (%)	1955 (%)	1954 (%)	1953 (%)	1952 (%)	1951 (%)	1950 (%)	1949 (%)	1948 (%)	1947 (%)	1946 (%)	1945 (%)	1944 (%)	1943 (%)	1942 (%)	1941 (%)	1940 (%)	1939 (%)	1938 (%)	1937 (%)	1936 (%)	1935 (%)	1934 (%)	1933 (%)	1932 (%)	1931 (%)	1930 (%)	1929 (%)	1928 (%)	1927 (%)	1926 (%)	1925 (%)	1924 (%)	1923 (%)	1922 (%)	1921 (%)	1920 (%)	1919 (%)	1918 (%)	1917 (%)	1916 (%)	1915 (%)	1914 (%)	1913 (%)	1912 (%)	1911 (%)	1910 (%)	1909 (%)	1908 (%)	1907 (%)	1906 (%)	1905 (%)	1904 (%)	1903 (%)	1902 (%)	1901 (%)	1900 (%)	1899 (%)	1898 (%)	1897 (%)	1896 (%)	1895 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Slammin' Sammy Sosa reaches 40 HRs

PHOENIX (AP) — Now everyone can call him Grand Slammin' Sammy.

Sosa hit his 39th and 40th home runs, including the first slam of his career, as the Chicago Cubs beat the Arizona Diamondbacks 6-2 Monday night.

Sosa had hit 246 homers — no player in major league history had gone longer at the start of a career without a slam — until connecting in the eighth inning at Phoenix.

"Thank God," he said, "I'm not going to have to hear that no more."

The record for most consecutive homers without a slam at any point in a career is 266 by Cal Ripken.

Sosa was teased by teammates after ending his streak, which began in 1989 when he hit his first big league homer for Texas against Roger Clemens.

"I'm sure he's glad to get that monkey off his back, because it was really just a fluke thing that he hadn't hit one," Cubs manager Jim Riggleman said.

Sosa tied his career high for home runs in a season and also matched his career-best with six RBIs. He has 102 RBIs, the fourth straight year he's reached the 100-RBI mark.

Before Sosa, the record for homers at the beginning of a career without a slam was 209 by Bob Horner. Three players finished their careers with more than 150 home runs and no slams — Glenn Davis (190), Ron Kittle (176) and Claudell Washington (164).

Sosa set a major league record with 20 home runs in June, but had hit just four in July until connecting Sunday at Wrigley Field against New York.

"I've been swinging too hard, trying to hit the home run," he said. "The first at-bat he got me, and I said to myself I have to be more relaxed and go out there and make good contact."

Sosa hit a two-run homer in the sixth off Willie Blair, then hit a 438-foot drive to center field in the eighth off Alan Embree.

"That's twice he's pulled my pants down and embarrassed me," said Embree, who gave up Sosa's home run in June. "I have to figure out a way to get that guy out."

Rockies 8, Pirates 7 (13)
Vince Castilla homered twice and doubled, and Jeff Reed hit an RBI double with two outs in the bottom of the 13th inning that lifted Colorado.

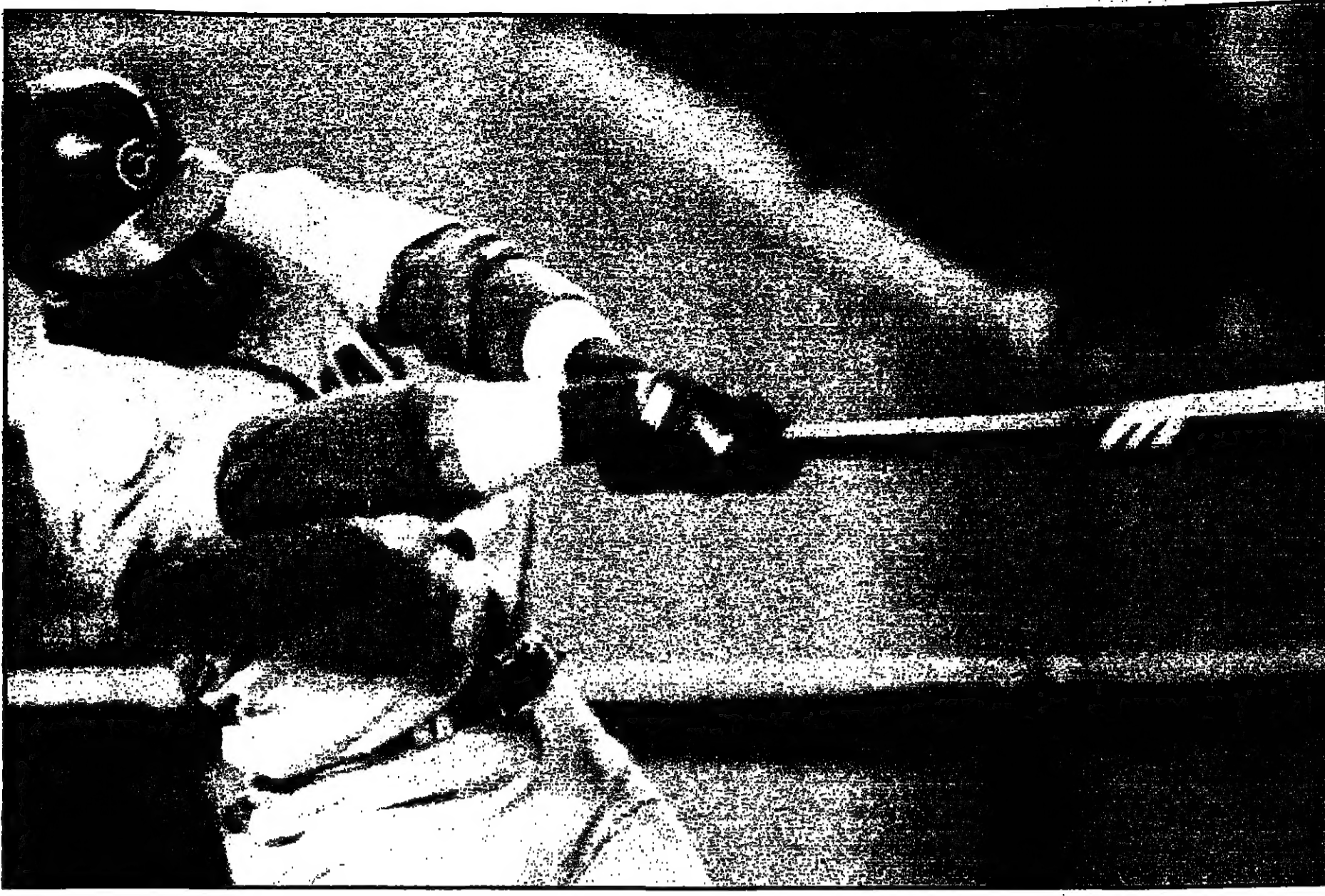
The Pirates led 7-2 in the sixth before the Rockies rallied.

Néfi Pérez singled home the tying run in the ninth.

Todd Helton hit a leadoff single in the 13th and beat the relay home on Reed's double.

Jose Guillen, who had a career-high four hits, and Al Martin each homered for Pittsburgh. Guillen also threw out Pérez at third base from the base of the wall in right for his 12th outfield assist.

Pirates leadoff man Tony



FIRST OF TWO — Cubs' Sammy Sosa connects for his 39th home run in sixth-inning action against the Diamondbacks. In the eighth frame, he slugged his 40th, his first career Grand Slam in Chicago's 6-2 win.

Womack had two hits and also set a major league record for consecutive at-bats without grounding into a double play. He has gone 889, breaking the mark of 887 by Brooklyn's Pete Reiser set in 1946.

Braves 3, Reds 2 (10)
Ozzie Guillen singled home the tiebreaking run with two outs in the top of the 10th inning.

Guillen's third hit sent the Reds to their 10th defeat in 11 games. Cincinnati lost for the second straight day in 10 innings, with Stan Belinda (4-8) taking the loss both times.

Astros 9, Marlins 1
Moises Alou, Jeff Bagwell and Derek Bell each homered to back Jose Lima's six-hitter at the Astrodome.

Alou had four hits for Houston. A day earlier, his 25th home run ruined San Diego closer Trevor Hoffman's streak of 41 straight saves.

Lima (9-6) struck out six and walked none. Florida starter Brian Meadows (9-8) allowed seven runs and left with a strained groin

after giving up two hits to start the fifth inning.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Devil Rays 11, Oakland 5
Wade Boggs hit a two-run homer and later passed Babe Ruth for 33rd place on the career hits list as host Tampa Bay won its team-record fifth straight game.

Mike Blowers and Miguel Tejada homered for Oakland, which lost its season-high seventh in a row.

Boggs was lifted for pinch-run-

AMERICAN LEAGUE
Oakland 100 002 200—5 9 2
Tampa Bay 000 050 045—11 11 2
Sten, Groom (5), Fellers (7), Monie (5), and MacFarlane; Rekar, White (7), Alford (7), Meier (8), R.Hernandez (8) and Delfino, W-Rekar, 1-2, L-Sim, 4-6, HRs—Oakland, Blowers (8), Tejada (4), Tampa Bay, Boggs (6).

ANALHEIM 002 000 010—4 9 0
Kansas City 000 100 000—1 4 0
Watson, Hasegawa (8) and Nevin, Rapp, Harey (7) and Fasano, W-Watson, 4-6, L-Rapp, 9-10, 5-7, Hasegawa (2), HRs—Anahem, Fielder (17), Salmon (16), Nevin (7).

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Florida 000 010 000—1 6 1
Houston 000 030 010—3 14 0
Meadows, Dempster (5) and Redmond, Lima and Asmus, W-Lima, 9-6, L-Meadows, 9-8, HRs—Houston, DeBell (10), Bagwell (22), Alou (26).

ner Bobby Smith following his final hit and received a rousing standing ovation as he left the field.

Bryan Rekar (1-2) earned his first victory since June 21, 1997. Blake Stein (4-6) took the loss despite striking out four batters in the fourth inning.

Oakland dropped three games at Baltimore and was swept in a four-game set against the Devil Rays during their trip.

Angels 6, Royals 1
Tim Salmon, Cecil Fielder and

Atlanta 010 001 000—3 10 0
Cincinnati 000 000 110—2 8 1
(10 innings) Glavine, Seanez (8) and J.Lopez, Eda, Perez (10); Reminger and Jaucoese, Garco (8), W-Seanez, 2-0, L-Belinda, 4-8, 5-7, Ligenberg (14).

CHICAGO 000 002 040—4 7 0
Arizona 000 000 000—2 1 0
Trachsel, Mulholland (8) and Houston; Blair and Fabezzes, Miller (8), W-Trachsel, 10-5, L-Blair, 4-15, HRs—Chicago, Sosa (40).

PITTSBURGH 311 020 000 000—7 18 0
Colorado 010 002 001 000—3 18 1
(13 innings)
Nevin, Pospisil, Desjardis (7), Aronoff (7), M.Williams (7) and Kendall; Brownson, E.M.Jones (5), Depoto (7) and Manwarung, J.Reed (7), W-Desjardis, 5-3, L-McCurry, 0-1, HRs—Pittsburgh, J.Guillen (8), Al Martin (10), Colorado, L.Walker (12), Castilla (28).

Phil Nevin each homered as Anaheim won on the road in Monday's only other AL game.

Garret Anderson of the Angels doubled to extend his career-high hitting streak to 24 games. He tied Boston's Nomar Garciaparra for the longest string in the AL this season.

Allen Watson (4-6) won for the first time since May 13, teaming

with Shigetoshi Hasegawa on a four-hitter. The Royals lost for the seventh time in 10 games.

Angels closer Troy Percival, leading the league with 29 saves, was cleared to pitch, but did not appear. He spent Saturday night in a hospital after complaining of dizziness for the third time in three days.

American League				
East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
New York	73	26	.737	—
Boston	60	43	.582	15
Baltimore	52	53	.495	24
Toronto	52	54	.491	26 1/2
Tampa Bay	41	62	.398	34
Central Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Oakland	59	45	.567	—
Minnesota	48	55	.466	10 1/2
Kansas City	46	58	.442	13
Chicago	45	59	.433	14
Detroit	44	59	.427	14 1/2
West Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Anaheim	57	47	.548	—
Texas	56	48	.538	1
Seattle	48	56	.461	9
Oakland	46	58	.442	11

National League				
East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	70	36	.660	—
New York	54	48	.529	14
Philadelphia	54	49	.524	14 1/2
Montreal	40	65	.381	29 1/2
Florida	38	68	.358	32
Central Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
St. Louis	62	43	.590	—
Chicago	60	46	.564	2 1/2
Minnesota	53	52	.505	9
St. Louis	49	55	.471	12 1/2
Pittsburgh	49	57	.462	13 1/2
Cincinnati	46	60	.434	16 1/2
West Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
San Diego	69	36	.657	—
San Francisco	56	49	.533	13
Los Angeles	54	51	.514	15
Colorado	47	59	.443	22 1/2
Arizona	37	68	.352	32

MAJOR LEAGUE LEADERS

AMERICAN LEAGUE
BATTING—BWilliams, New York, .355; TWalker, Minnesota, .332; P.Rodriguez, Texas, .340; Sosa, Chicago, .331; M.Vaughn, Boston, .328; Sosa, Oakland, .328; Clinton, Kansas City, .324.
RUNS—Griffey Jr., Seattle, 86; Durham, Chicago, 80; Thome, Cleveland, 77; A.Rodriguez, Seattle, 77; D.Jeter, New York, 76; Grievs, Knoblauch, New York, 75; Anaheim, 75.
RBI—J.Gonzalez, Texas, 118; Balle, Chicago, 91; Griffey Jr., Seattle, 81; RPalmeiro, Baltimore, 87; A.Rodriguez, Seattle, 84; M.Ramirez, Cleveland, 82; Thome, Cleveland, 80.
HITS—Ereast, Anaheim, 132; A.Rodriguez, Seattle, 132; Hoggins, Detroit, 128; P.Rodriguez, Texas, 127; O'Neill, New York, 124; M.Vaughn, Boston, 123; J.Gonzalez, Texas, 123; Griffey Jr., Seattle, 123.
HOME RUNS—Griffey Jr., Seattle, 40; RPalmeiro, Baltimore, 33; A.Rodriguez, Seattle, 31; J.Gonzalez, Texas, 31; Balle, Chicago, 31; Canseco, Toronto, 29; Thome, Cleveland, 28.
STOLEN BASES—Henderson, Oakland, 43; Lofton, Cleveland, 31; Stewart, Toronto, 30; A.Rodriguez, Seattle, 28; T.Gooden, Texas, 28; B.Lauti, Detroit, 26; Durham, Chicago, 24; Olerud, Kansas City, 24.
PITCHING (12 Decisions)—D.Wells, New York, 12-2, .857, 3.68; Martinez, Boston, 14-3, .824, 2.56; Coon, New York, 14-3, .844, 3.44; Rogers, Oakland, 10-4, .714, 2.50; Iribu, New York, 8-4, .692, 3.19; Colon, Cleveland, 11-5, .687, 2.74; Wakefield, Boston, 11-5, .687, 2.74.
STRIKEOUTS—R.Johnson, Seattle, 201; P.Martinez, Boston, 155; O'Flaherty, Anaheim, 145; Clemens, Toronto, 144; Erickson, Baltimore, 128; Coon, New York, 128; Colon, Cleveland, 118; Sale, Texas, 118.
SAVES—Percival, Anaheim, 29; Gordon, Boston, 25; M.Ramirez, New York, 27; Wakefield, Texas, 27; M.Jackson, Cleveland, 25; R.Myers, Toronto, 25; J.Montgomery, Kansas City, 24; Aguilera, Minnesota, 24.

NATIONAL LEAGUE
BATTING—Kendall, Pittsburgh, .340; Bichette, Colorado, .335; L.Walker, Colorado, .335; DeBell, Houston, .330; Olerud, New York, .329; Morandini, Chicago, .328; Castilla, Colorado, .327.
RUNS—Chones, Atlanta, 85; G.Vaughn, San Diego, 83; Baggio, Houston, 83; McGwire, St. Louis, 82; Glavine, Philadelphia, 80; Sosa, Chicago, 77; Bagwell, Houston, 76.
RBI—Sosa, Chicago, 102; McGwire, St. Louis, 95; Castilla, Colorado, 97; G.Vaughn, San Diego, 89; Alou, Houston, 88; Bichette, Colorado, 88; Galaraga, Atlanta, 86.
HITS—Bichette, Colorado, 148; Castilla, Colorado, 136; Glavine, Philadelphia, 137; DeBell, Houston, 137; Baggio, Houston, 133; Vagueanu, Montreal, 131; Chones, Atlanta, 128.
HOME RUNS—McGwire, St. Louis, 44; Sosa, Chicago, 40; G.Vaughn, San Diego, 37; Castilla, Colorado, 35; Galaraga, Atlanta, 33; Chones, Atlanta, 28; Alou, Houston, 28.
STOLEN BASES—Womack, Pittsburgh, 40; E.Young, Los Angeles, 33; Renteria, Florida, 32; Baggio, Houston, 32; Floyd, Florida, 24; Olerud, San Diego, 19; Clayton, St. Louis, 18.
PITCHING (12 Decisions)—K.Brown, San Diego, 12-3, .800, 2.61; Glavine, Atlanta, 14-4, .778, 2.68; Glavine, Atlanta, 14-4, .778, 2.68; Gomez, Philadelphia, 9-3, .750, 3.60; Ashby, San Diego, 14-5, .737, 2.49; A.Lester, New York, 10-4, .714, 1.97; Milwood, Atlanta, 11-5, .687, 4.19.
STRIKEOUTS—Schilling, Philadelphia, 208; Wood, Chicago, 178; K.Brown, San Diego, 158; Stodolmeys, St. Louis, 147; Glavine, Atlanta, 135; Dreford, Los Angeles, 125; Nomo, New York, 122.
SAVES—Hoffman, San Diego, 33; Beck, Chicago, 31; Shaw, Los Angeles, 30; Nen, San Francisco, 27; Urbina, Montreal, 23; Swaggy, Houston, 22; M.Lester, Philadelphia, 20; J.Franco, New York, 20.

Chasing Roger Maris' record of 61 home runs in 1961				
Game	Maris	McGwire	Griffey	Sosa
104th	40	44	40	37
105th	40	44	40	38
106th	41	—	—	40

Maris hit his 44th HR in Game 118

Hamm leads US women to soccer gold

Cuban cyclist goes missing; paralyzed gymnast's parents confident of miracle

UNIONDALE (AP) — Mia Hamm continued scoring and the US women's soccer team continued its string of firsts.

With Hamm scoring both goals, the United States beat China 2-0 Monday night to win the gold medal in the debut of soccer at the Goodwill Games.

The US women's soccer team also won the first gold medal at the Olympics and the world championships.

The US had an 11-2 advantage in shots on goal over China and extended its domestic winning streak to 38 games before a crowd of 11,307 at Mitchell Field. It was the largest crowd so far at a Goodwill Games event.

While it was a relatively light day for sports, there was plenty of action away from the arenas.

Ivan Dominguez, a member of the Cuban cycling team, was reported missing after failing to return home with the squad.

Games officials and members of the Cuban delegation said Dominguez was last seen Sunday night when he left the team's hotel.

New York police, the State Department and the Immigration and Naturalization Service all said they had no information. Meanwhile, the parents of paralyzed Chinese gymnast Sang Lan said they were confident their daughter would compete again.

"I am sure she will be back to the competition circle because she is very courageous and with the excellent medical (care), the doctors and hospitals in America, I am sure she will one day be back to the contest," said Sang Shisheng, her father.

Doctors, however, said Sang's

condition had not changed. Norway defeated Denmark 4-2 in a shootout for the soccer bronze medal after a 1-1 tie in regulation.

The Americans, who beat China 2-1 for the gold at the 1996

Olympics, improved to 11-3-4 against the Chinese and remain unbeaten.

Hamm's 97th international goal in the 87th minute was an assisted blast from 35 yards that curled into the back of the net over the head of China goalie Zhao Yan.

Hamm scored her first goal in the 66th minute on an assist from Kristine Lilly. She scored on a breakaway from 14 yards, beating Zhao into the left corner of the net.

Hamm tied teammate Michelle Akers with 97 career goals and finished with five goals in two games.

"Mia Hamm turned in a Michael Jordan-like performance tonight," US coach Tony DiCicco said. "In fact, I think China took the game over and had more quality chances than we did, but then Mia scored the brilliant goal."

The US team last lost on home soil to defending World Cup champion Norway on Feb. 4, 1996 in Jacksonville, Fla.

The Goodwill Games boxing tournament began, and an American scored a quick upset. Bantamweight Antonio Rodriguez of Waianae, Hawaii, outpointed world championship bronze medalist Soner Karaoz of Turkey 9-1 in the quarterfinals. Other American winners included heavyweight DaVarryl Williamson of Aurora, Colorado and welterweights Miguel Espino and Larry Mosely.

US body won't enforce doping suspensions

INDIANAPOLIS (Reuters) — The US ruling body of track and field expressed outrage on Monday over the temporary doping suspensions of world record shot putter Randy Barnes and former 100 meters Olympic bronze medalist Dennis Mitchell, and said it would not enforce them.

"USATF is concerned and dismayed that the IAAF chose to temporarily suspend two American athletes on the basis of unproven allegations that they have committed a doping offense," USA Track & Field said in a statement from chief executive officer Craig Masback.

"USATF objects to the IAAF suspensions, and will not enforce them."

The statement did not name Barnes and Mitchell, but various broadcast reports have quoted an official of the International Amateur Athletic Federation as saying in Monaco that the two had failed out-of-competition 'A' tests and were suspended pending testing of 'B' samples.

The official was reported as saying Barnes tested positive for a banned nutritional supplement and Mitchell for an artificially high level of testosterone.

The IAAF has not officially announced the suspensions. Barnes could face a lifetime ban as a second-time offender because he was suspended for two years after testing positive for a steroid in Sweden in 1990.

"Pursuant to the Amateur Sports Act of 1978, US athletes are entitled to a full and fair hearing prior to being declared ineligible to compete. USATF has on several occasions informed the IAAF of its obligations under the Amateur Sports Act," the USATF statement continued.

"Therefore we are outraged that the IAAF knowingly breached our confidentiality rules, which were put in place to protect those ultimately determined to be innocent. As is the case with all athletes, these athletes will receive the full

support of USATF until such time as it is determined that they have committed a doping offense."

"USATF was one of the first sports organizations to institute aggressive and comprehensive in-competition and out-of-competition drug-testing programs."

Australia "gobsmacked" by Samaranch drug stand

Australian Sports Minister Andrew Thomson said yesterday he was "gobsmacked" by reports that Olympics chief Juan Antonio Samaranch had urged the legalization of some performance-enhancing drugs.

Thomson said he would contact Samaranch to seek clarification, but that Australia would continue its tough stand against drugs ahead of the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney.

"It just leaves me gobsmacked, to use an Australian expression," he told Australian Broadcasting Corp radio.

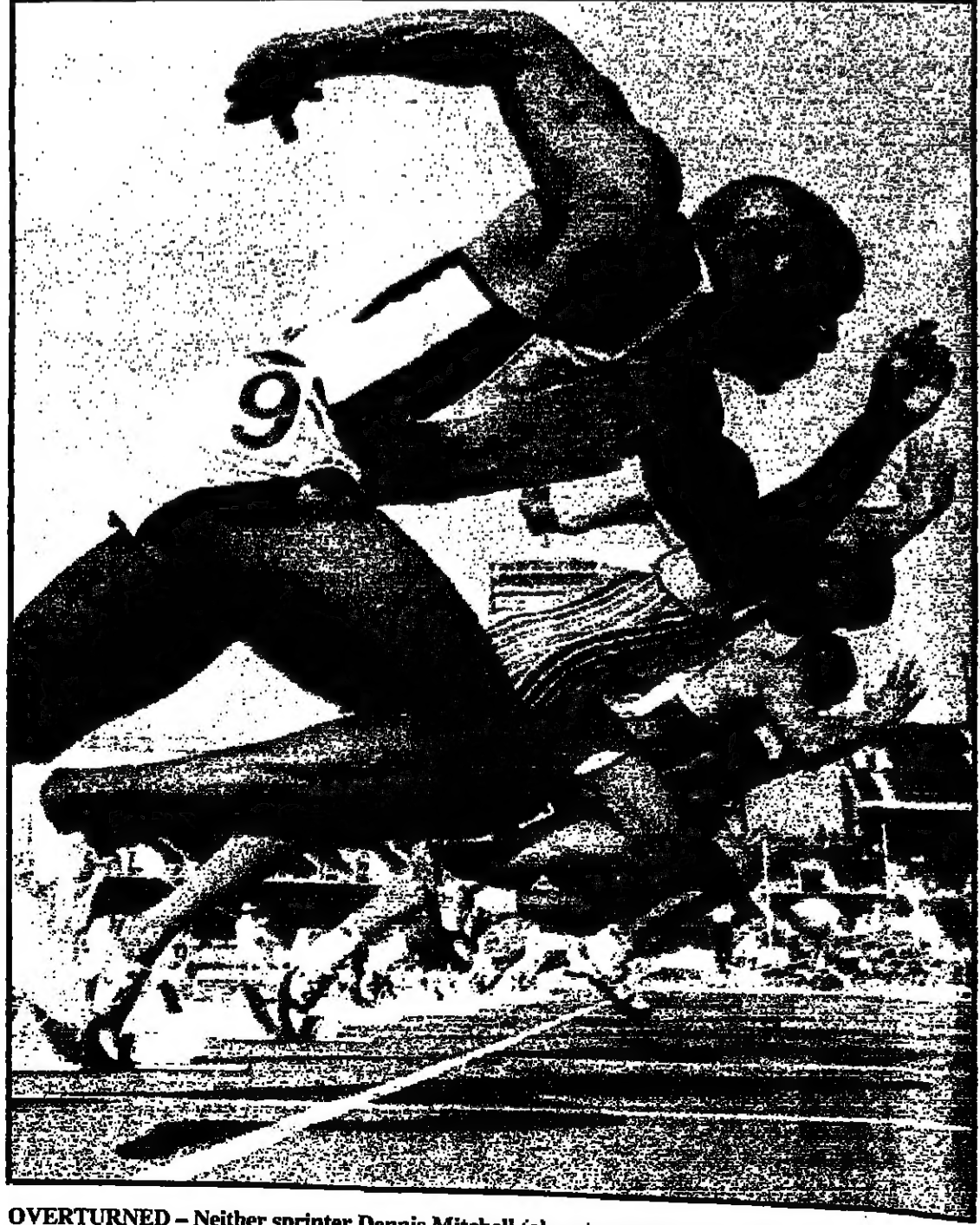
"But let me be blunt, the Australian government will do everything we can to stop cheating in sport."

"Doping, that is taking drugs in order to enhance one's performance, in order to cheat on one's competitors — that's exactly as I describe it," he said.

The Spanish daily *El Mundo* on Sunday quoted Samaranch as saying in an interview: "Anything that doesn't adversely affect the health of the athlete, for me, isn't doping."

Samaranch is the International Olympic Committee president. Thomson questioned the accuracy of the reports of Samaranch's comments, saying they contrasted with the Olympic chief's strong stand against drug use during a recent visit to Australia. To be frank, I burst into laughter. I thought this couldn't be true," he said.

"If true, it's the most extraordinary thing anyone's ever said in elite sport. It's too bizarre to be true."



OVERTURNED — Neither sprinter Dennis Mitchell (above) nor shot putter Randy Barnes will be disciplined by the US's ruling track and field body for alleged doping offenses.

(Reuters)

